

This Old House

23
TOP PROBLEM-
SOLVERS
for your kitchen
& bath

FREE STUFF!

\$460,974
giveaway*

- > Kitchen appliances and countertops
- > Windows, furniture, wood floors
- > Bath fixtures, a washer & dryer, a hot tub, and more

* No purchase necessary. For details, see page 8 or just go to thisoldhouse.com/win

PLUS

Get a better built-in BBQ

Give your garden year-round appeal

Build a backyard privacy screen

43
SUBWAY TILE
DESIGN
IDEAS
p. 92

AUGUST 2012
THISOLDHOUSE.COM

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The feelings we've got to be good stewards of the land and treat our resources as if we're borrowing them. Because we want to pass it on to the next generation a little better than we found it.

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Thomas Angus Ranch
Oregon

Spicy Chaudhary's Studio

**A THOMAS FAMILY GRILLING GO-TO
SPICY CHEESEBURGER SLIDERS**

Total on-call time: 24–26 hours/week
Mixes of salary

Keywords:

- 2 pound ground beef (80/20, lean)
 1 small whole wheat hamburger bun
 1 clove garlic, minced
 1/4 teaspoon ground ginger (aka powder)
 2 slices pepper jack cheese (not in picture)

References

1. *Handwritten text*
 2. *Handwritten text*
 3. *Handwritten text*
 4. *Handwritten text*

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DETAILS MATTER

THE RIGHT BALANCE OF FEATURES FOR A FINE FINISH



It's all about the details in your finishing toolbox, and the existing tools. The 7800 Series \$4,999, 2" Brad Nailer has been updated from its previous version to be more compact, 17% lighter and easy to use. All at a lower price. Building an oil-free design, new exhaust tool, low depth of draw, tool-free jam release and more. It's the right balance of features to add your finishing touches. The same great features also available in the HD1500 Finish Stapler.

To learn more about Porter-Cable Finish Nailers, visit portercable.com or stop by a retailer near you.

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Scan this tag with your smartphone for a chance to win a \$5,000 tool package in the Great TOH Giveaway, or go to thisoldhouse.com/win



48
GET THIS
FOR LESS

{ August 2012 } **contents**

THE GREAT TOH GIVEAWAY

8 \$460,974 in prizes!
Check out the complete list of giveaway products in this issue

idea file

- 33 **before + after, kitchen:**
A kitchen goes from stale, seeling, and other sad-friendly touches
- 43 **before + after, bath:**
An unused addition becomes a cozy master bath
- 56 **new and notable problem solvers:**
Seven handy new tools and products to make life easier
- 67 **Photoshop redo:**
Bleary color and obstructive columns go away to a plain lunch
- 78 **21st-century Craftsman:**
A quiet night kitchen inspires a total burglar rework
- 84 **decorating your garden:**
A guide to using ornaments in your green space
- 88 **read this before you put in an outdoor kitchen:**
Create the perfect open-air cookery without major tears and risks

upgrades

- 48 **get this look for less:**
Colorful, eclectic breakfast nook
- 52 **shop smarter:**
Vinyl windows
- 62 **all about:**
Ceramic subway tile



on the cover



- at \$460,974 giveaway
- 33, 78 Kitchen upgrade ideas
 - 48 23 top problem solvers
 - 62 Subway tile design ideas
 - 67 A better built-in herb garden
 - 84 Year-round garden appeal
 - 73 Backyard giveaway screen

Cover Photography by PAUL WREN
Stylings by GINA M. ALLEN



53

PAINT IDEAS

These textured walls only look like they're covered in linen and denim. We tell you everything you need to know to get the look—no fabric required.



21

HOME SOLUTIONS



73

WEDDING IDEAS



61

ANIMAL HOUSE



home solutions

- 22 Dress up—rent from Lulu, 10 years for leftover screws: a new way to cut down garden-equipment clutter; choose the right ceiling fan; high-tech home security; the lowdown on bees; and more

how-to projects

- 59 paint ideas
Add texture to plain walls with a dry-brush and tinted glaze
61 animal house
Make Fido a Murphy bed
63 salvage style
Dorm garden looks in style with brick made from rustic finds
69 landscaping
Plants and tips for a colorful late summer garden
73 weekend remodel
Lend your pet a paw with a lush planter

ask this old house

- 107 Q + A
Fix a garden spigot, unblock your AC, make a skylight position a spindly garden slash overgrown grass, mend minor indoor air-pollution damage, and more
110 step-by-step
Build a birdhouse wall
114 Norm's tricks of the trade
Remove a piece of baseboard to reveal kitchen cabinet

in every issue

- 7 letter from This Old House
10 reader mail
13 thisoldhouse.com
16 checklist Easy ways to improve your home's value
115 directory
120 save this old house

PHOTO: JACQUES/REX USA; ILLUSTRATION: J. WARD/REX USA; PHOTO: JACQUES/REX USA; ILLUSTRATION: J. WARD/REX USA



Bags in vacuum cleaners rely on small holes to allow airflow. But tiny particles of dust can cause them to clog, which restricts airflow. That's why bagged vacuum cleaners can lose suction.



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Don't miss a Day, get Facebook

letter {from This Old House}

We could all use a freebie these days

You see the photo at right? That's me without a win dow 'll in my hand there were a pot—something I'm also without—that easiness window would be the one I'd throw it out of.

You may be familiar with an earlier, more complete version of this saying, but I think you get the idea. I'm feeling a little broke lately. And while I don't mean to cry poverty—I know for certain my family is in many ways very fortunate—it seems there's never enough left over at the end of the month to do the things around the house I really want to do: the early-april project, making the laundry room a nicer place, considering how much time we spend in it, finishing the basement.

I'd let you guys feel the same way, given that most of you won't (a) Bill Gates or Warren Buffett (b) finance or Clyde or (c) civil servants with the power to bewitch Bill Gates or Warren Buffett and have them wire piles of cash into your bank account. I mean, if you are wealthy, I understand, because I have a favor to ask, but it's unlikely, I know.

What's likely? A lot of people won't find you as a way to get out, because as part of The Great TOH Giveaway in this issue, Screenshot Windows is supplying a grand total of \$49,000 worth of high-quality vinyl replacement windows to three lucky readers, all you've got to do for a chance to win is go to our Shop Screenshot online (page 51) and use the tag you'll find there with your smartphone. If you haven't used a smartphone sooner before, you'll find directions when you turn this page—and if you don't have a smartphone, you can go to the back of these envelopes and enter that way.

Screenshot isn't the only company offering big prizes this year. DuWies Bookshelves is giving away \$50,000 worth of an handsome Bedfordshire style rocking—on tag, it's in the PhotoShop Rocks column (page 67). And then there's Kohler, which is giving a few lucky TOH readers nearly everything by offering six top-rate bathroom suites (page 44), a residential governor (page 112), faucets, and even a kitchen sink or two (page 57).

They're joined by other generous folks whose tags you'll find throughout the issue, with prizes ranging from coffee fans to conserving cookers to a hot tub up to HVAC systems. There's a total of 125 giveaway prizes, for a staggering \$460,974 worth of free stuff. There are no pots in The Great TOH Giveaway this year, but I figure if you win, you'll be able to afford your own. Good luck!

Sam Chiswick
SCOTT OMBREANTZ, EDITOR
www.thisoldhouse.com



LOOK FOR THE TAGS
Look for the tags you'll find throughout the magazine and use them to win a chance to be a winner in The Great TOH Giveaway.

THIS OLD HOUSE presents the
TABLET LOVERS SWEEPSTAKES

a
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 For 12
 Weeks!



YOU COULD WIN A \$599 GIFT CARD!
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Enter each week at:

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**And find out how you could get THIS OLD HOUSE
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NO PURCHASE NECESSARY. Purchasing does not improve your chances of winning. The Tablet Lovers Sweepstakes is open to residents of the 50 United States and D.C. and Canada (excluding Quebec), age 18 or older, or if a Canadian resident, who are, upon the age of majority in the province or territory in which they reside at the time of entry, then outside the United States and Canada, and who are also prohibited by law. Sweepstakes begins at 12:00 AM ET on 8/13/12 and ends at 11:59 PM ET on 7/30/12. For entry details and Official Rules, visit www.thisoldhouse.com/tablets. Sponsor: T1 Media Solutions Inc.

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Where Danger Lurks...

- 10 Ways Your House Can Kill You
- 9 Deadliest Wildlife Home Invaders
- How Yard Work Can Blind or Maim You

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checklist { August 2012 }

EASY WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR HOME RIGHT NOW

Keep your harvest going

Your summer vegetables are thriving, and now's the time to get your fall crops going so that you'll have fresh produce for months to come. Plant radishes, carrots, asparagus, and other autumn veggies in the shade of taller plants, like tomatoes. Keep soil moist by adding a fresh layer of compost; hot, dry weather can be stressful on seedlings.



Hang a hammock in a shady spot to keep your seedlings cool.

Hang a hammock

Happy Nib and Relaxation Month! To celebrate, install a hammock in your yard. Choose hardwood trees that are far enough apart to accommodate your hammock plus an extra 6 to 12 inches on each end. Sore eyes? 1/2 inch or larger directly into tree trunks at about 5 to 6 feet off the ground—high enough to keep your hammock from bottoming out, even as the ropes stretch over time. Choose a style with spreader bars, which keep the hammock stable and let you share a sleaze without sacrificing comfort. Visit theickhouse.com/aug2012 for more on proper installation.



TOH TIP

Install security lights

Before stepping back for the last vacation of the season, boost your home's security with invisible, wireless outdoor flood lamps. For best results—said to keep from annoying the neighbors—angle lights and sensors toward the ground. If wide-angle sensors are detecting extreme motion, such as a fire alarm, the sensor can be used to make the sides of the fire.

Speed up trickling showerheads and faucets

They get a workout this time of year. Fine up slow-flowing ones by flushing minerals from clogged aerators and nozzles. Use pliers cushioned with a rag (to avoid scratches) to unscrew the faucet and/or showerhead. For the latter, stabilize the pipe with a second pair of pliers. Soak fixtures overnight in white vinegar, then scrub with a toothbrush and rinse before replacing.



Get deals on home improvement

If you missed spring cleaning sales a few months ago, with no less. The sales did not drop discounts on decorating basics in late summer. Keep scope out for plastic storage bins to organize items in crowded closets, or through windows will let you survey your studio's progress.



What's on your checklist?

"My 13-year-old is patching under his car with a screwdriver with a rim of green sand, and port and cement so that the repair is less likely to crack."

—Cheryl Wamack-Borbeck, Chelmsford, N.C.

E-mail us your ideas at checklist@theickhouse.com.

Very high triglycerides is a medical term for something serious: TOO MUCH FAT IN YOUR BLOOD.

Ask your doctor about an FDA-approved medication made from omega-3 fish oil: **LOVAZA® (omega-3 acid ethyl esters)**

If you have high cholesterol, diabetes or are overweight, you may be at risk for very high triglycerides (≥500 mg/dL), which is a serious medical condition. LOVAZA is an FDA-approved medication for treating very high triglycerides that's made from omega-3 fish oil. LOVAZA, along with diet, has been clinically proven to lower very high triglycerides in adults. Individual results may vary. LOVAZA has not been shown to prevent heart attacks or strokes. LOVAZA is only available by prescription. You can't get it at a health food store. So if you think you might have very high triglycerides, talk to your doctor about getting your triglyceride levels tested and ask about LOVAZA.

LOVAZA is used along with a low-fat and low-cholesterol diet to lower very high triglycerides (fast) in your blood. Before taking LOVAZA, talk to your healthcare provider about how you can lower high blood fats by losing weight, if you are overweight, increasing physical exercise, lowering alcohol use, treating diseases such as diabetes and low thyroid (hypothyroidism), and adjusting the dose or changing other medicines that raise triglyceride levels such as certain blood pressure medicines and statins.

Take LOVAZA capsules whole.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION FOR LOVAZA

Tell your doctor if you are allergic to fish or shellfish as LOVAZA may not be right for you. Talk to your doctor about any medical conditions you have and any medications you are taking, especially those that may increase your risk of bleeding in some patients, like oral, chemical or any anticoagulant. Your healthcare provider should do blood tests before and during treatment with LOVAZA to check your cholesterol and triglyceride levels. If you have liver disease, you may require additional monitoring. Possible side effects include burping, upset stomach, and change in sense of taste. How supplied: 1 gram capsules.

Please see important Patient Information on the next page. Patients enrolled in special registries are eligible for savings. See the P.I. For more information, visit lovaza.com or call 1-877-LOVAZA1.

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omega-3 acid ethyl esters



Why Energy Efficiency Should Top Your Window Wish List

With rising costs of heating and cooling these days, windows should be more than beautiful—they should help you save energy.

Updated or living windows can let the savings replace the heat out of your house in winter and suckling from it in summer. The good news, today's high-performance windows are far more efficient than those of the past. Choose the right window for your climate zone and your tastes, and you could save as much as 15% to 25% on your annual heating and cooling bills according to the U.S. Department of Energy.*

What to Look for in an Energy-Efficient Window

- The ENERGY STAR® logo, signifying it meets federal guidelines
- Insulating gases (like argon or krypton) between the panes of glass that slow the transfer of heat
- Low Emissivity (LoE) glazing options designed to optimize energy efficiency for your tastes, exposures and climate without dimming your view
- Solid-wood frames are less thermally conductive (and far less so, too, maintenance aluminum clad exterior)

Marvin® is the industry leader in energy-efficient windows and doors. With more than 150,000 options that meet or exceed stringent federal ENERGY STAR standards, Marvin allows you to choose a beautiful and customized energy-efficient solution for any project in any climate.

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*Estimated savings are based on data supplied by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and based on climate, window, and building characteristics. Actual savings will vary.

How to Read Energy-Efficiency Labels



Thanks to third-party, certified ratings from the National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC), comparing window performance across manufacturers and within manufacturer product lines is easy.

1 Regional Rating: The shaded portion of the map shows areas of the country in which the window meets regional ENERGY STAR standards.

2 U-Factor: The U-factor indicates the rate of heat loss in a window or door. The lower the U-factor, the greater a window's resistance to heat flow and the better its insulating properties.

3 Solar Heat Gain Coefficient (SHGC): SHGC measures how well a window's glazing blocks heat caused by sunlight. The lower the number, the less heat gained. A score of 0.40 or less is recommended in warmer climates.

4 Visible Transmittance (VT): VT is a measure of how much total light is transmitted through the window. Windows glazed with a VT of 0.60 or more look clear. Windows with lower VT scores limit glare but can slightly darken rooms.

At Marvin, we're committed to building energy efficiency into product performance while bringing your inspiration to life.



home solutions

Edited by Amy Roberts

inside

10 USES

COOL TOOLS

SMART STORAGE

MORE



Perk up a plain tub

Give your cast-iron bathtub a dash of whimsy with a rimmed embellishment. Large-scale images, like the soap-powered fern, also hide minor imperfections. For crisp edges, affix the stencil to the tub's side with repositionable mounting spray. Working from the outside inward, use a flat-tipped stencil brush to "prime" on oil-based paint in a dabbing motion. Peel off the stencil at a sharp angle while paint's still wet. At the tub's whole exterior needs a pick-me-up, scrub it with a stiff wire brush, then coat with oil-based primer and paint before stenciling. —MICHAEL BAKER

Find similar designs at cuttingpaperstudio.com



Window screens

If replacing yours this summer left you with extra fiberglass material, don't just scrap it. Instead, tailor it to these new purposes.

1 Protect newly seeded grass.

Stop hungry birds from devouring the seeds you planted in a bare spot of lawn by covering it with a patch of screen. Tack it in place with a few long nails, remove them once the blades sprout.

2 Prevent drain clogs.

Wad up some screen scraps and tack them into a utility sink's drain to keep debris from slipping through.



3

Scrub your skin clean. Gently rub a length of mesh over hands to scrape away dried-on paint.



4

5 Soft unmixed grout.

Use a piece of screen as a strainer to catch powdered grout and remove any lumps before mixing with water.

5 Dry herbs.

Stake mesh over wood frames to make a platform for drying fresh sprigs. Place the frame wood-side down so the herbs beneath the mesh.

6 Keep cutters out.

Take like an insect, then stuff strips of screen into narrow crevices in your home—like those around

pipes and under sinks—to keep pests out.

7 Make compost tea.

Bundle stuff pound of compost in a 3-foot square of mesh and crush with heavy to make a tea bag. Soak the bag in a 5-gallon bucket of water for a week or so, stirring daily. Perforate a ruga patch with the brew.



8 Give a sponge scour power.

Cover a plain household sponge with a piece of screen, and use with a scrub brush to get rid of tough stains.

9 Strain old paint.

Pour paint through a piece of screen to filter out debris from an otherwise still good batch.

more 10 uses
Find more must-know life hacks at house.com/ideas

MODEL
TO: ACADIA DENALI

STYLING
CHERRY ACCENTS

ENGINE
TO: CITYVIEW HYBRID

TRANSMISSION
TO: VISION COUNTRY

ALWAYS MAKING IMPROVEMENTS? WE CAN RELATE TO THAT.

There's always room for improvement. That's why we built the right power on GMC Acadia Denali. The most powerful in the class. The result is the Acadia Denali, complete with available navigation, a rear-view camera, and more. And this is just one of the many ways we can help you get the most out of life.

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Size up a ceiling fan

A ceiling fan is a cost-effective way to cool off or heat a room, up to the AC fan's 10-watt difference and all else

Select a fan with the appropriate span: 36 inches for rooms up to 250 square feet, 42 inches for up to 300 square feet, 52 inches for up to 400 square feet, and either one 60 inches or two 52- or 56-inch fans for rooms larger than 400 square feet. When installing two fans, place one at each quarter point along the room's long axis. In all cases, there should be at least 25 inches of clearance from walls.

Hang fans about 8 feet above the floor for the maximum cooling effect. For rooms with high ceilings, purchase a pull-the-rope rise lowered for better cooling three feet from the ceiling, or eight and a half feet, about 1 foot to accommodate the motor and wiring. If your bedroom is less than 8 feet, choose a happen-style ceiling fan, which has a more compact shape. Stepped ceiling? Manufacturers set adapters that tilt fan-hung plates angle of up to 45 degrees.

Convert an electrical wire to lighting: A ceiling light fixture is only as good as the wiring can support. The weight and heat the electrical box can take, including how to attach the wires to the wiring, or see diyhowto.com/avg2012 for the how to. —AMANDA SHUTTLETHORP



\$19,500 IN PROGRESS!
Summer begins with a closet to reward 30. Women's clothing from sweat-soaked 2011. Upgrade it. Or get it all out of your closet.



OVER \$2,500 IN PRIZES

Don't let summer be a closet to you. Enter the Closet Wars contest to win one of nine \$2,500 prizes. Enter today at closetwars.com.

Hidden risks in your closet

There's probably plenty of stuff taking up unnecessary space in your home's closets. For your own health and safety, however, these things really shouldn't be in there.

- 1. Bare lightbulbs** The uncovered electrical parts and heat from a bulb left burning can spark a fire, especially if carbon dioxide or other fumes are stored close by. And, it's all too easy to snuff it by bulb when removing items from top shelves. Check that any fixture you may need for storage areas.
- 2. Mold and mildew** If you keep coats and other items from leaching on your floor. But the chemical vapors mold and mildew are also harmful to humans when inhaled. A moldy, moldy alternative is to find the closet with a moisture wick in it. Just keep clothing out of it and can back. And, wood can shrink.
- 3. Clothes in dry-cleaning bags** The plastic holds a dark moisture, which can lead to mold and mildew and must chemicals from the cleaning process, which can damage clothing. How to dispose of the bags? Yellowing. Let garments fully air out before starting, and cover with cloth garment bags if desired.
- 4. Leftover paint** Even if you're not a paint enthusiast, vapors may still escape. In an enclosed space like a closet, they can build up—until you open the door and breathe it in. It's a risk to breathe it in a closet to dispose of the leftover properly, but if you must keep partly used paint, it's best to keep it in a well-ventilated area, like a garage or basement, not a closet.

Illustration: Lisa M. Smith

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KOHLER.Generators

* Comparative comparisons between KOHLER and the other top-selling generator brand. Faster response time based on published data. Maximum power and higher-quality power output (voltage regulation and frequency regulation) based on product listing.

Bee aware!

The scoop on those winged stingers—and how to get them to buzz off—*by Tim Wucolor*

TYPE

WHAT THEY DO

TO REDUCE YOUR RISK



Honeybees

Bumblebees are essential pollinators in gardens. They tend to prefer areas like tree canopies, or within shrubs or walls. If agitated, they'll sting just once. Their barbed stingers die off, killing them. (Their killer: fuzzy bumblebees count on repeatedly inflicting pain-killing.)

Prevent your house from becoming a honeybee hangout by sealing openings where gaps or wires enter, as well as gaps in your siding. If you spot a swarm, call a local beekeeper (for example, R



Carpenter Bees

Known for their ability to bore perfectly round holes into wood, they're often found in eaves and beams. As females build the nest, males fill it with fecal-looking material. Just as proudly, they can't sting. And while females can, they rarely do.

Carpenter bees prefer untreated wood, so paint, stain, or sand under wood surfaces. If you discover an infestation, either indicated by a spiraling of sawdust or a new pile of wood—call an exterminator.



Yellow Jackets

These territorial, aggressive predators feed on caterpillars, spiders, and even other bees, plus sugar water, which is why you can find around trees and landscaped lawns. They tend to build nests in small crevices in the ground.

Beware. Even just walking over their nests may provoke an attack, and the sound or vibrations from a lawn mower may set them off. Survey your yard for yellow jackets carefully, and hire a pro if you find a hive.



Hornets

Like yellow jackets, hornets are in the wasp family and survive on other insects and food sources. Their large paper nests are often found in trees and under eaves. They're notoriously aggressive but are more likely to sting you when you're handling a nest than they are.

If you discover a nest, it's best to leave it alone. If you're allergic to stings, get a professional to remove it. Hornets, like yellow jackets, love nesting holes so make sure your garage can be properly sealed.



Keep your harvest fresh

Good storage methods help garden is beautifully long. When storing food, it's vital to still-clipping stems. As they're a source of continuing nourishment. Reap most produce and get it dry. In the long term, wash berries, which grow most of the year. Store loose fruit and veggies in the fridge's main place, green beans and asparagus in brown paper bags. But never call tomatoes cold temps without their risk—AUS



Secure your home from your phone

Get high-tech peace of mind with upgrades that let you control your home's systems from lighting to locks, via your home Wi-Fi network and smartphone.

Close the garage door. Switch those "Did I or didn't I?" moments with LiftMaster's MyQ-enabled garage-door opener. Check the app to see if the door is open, and shut it remotely if needed. It is. From \$449. LiftMaster.com

Turn on the lights. To make it look as if you're home, give lamps to adapt to the light. A Webco's which enables remote control from an iPhone, \$50, \$60, \$60, \$60.

Keep an eye on things. The iCam, an app-powered security camera, streams audio and video to your phone. It'll make up movement, you'll receive an alert via the app. \$30. iCam.com

Set the deadbolt. High-tech door locks such as Schlage's can be opened from afar, so you can let in a neighbor to check on things. The lock is also smart if you've been opened. \$300. Schlage.com



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I'm breathing better, so now, I can be part of the picture.



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ADVAIR helps improve your lung function so you breathe better. Results may vary. Side effects include headache, sore throat, dry mouth, cough, and sinusitis. ADVAIR contains both an anti-inflammatory* and a long-acting bronchodilator working together to help improve your lung function. ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 is approved for adults with COPD, including chronic bronchitis, emphysema, or both. ADVAIR DISKUS is not for use if used in the past, unless your symptoms of COPD. ADVAIR will not replace a rescue inhaler. You should only take 1 inhalation of ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 twice daily, not more than 2 inhalations per day. Do not use ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 if you are pregnant or breastfeeding.

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- Do not use ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 if you have symptoms of asthma or COPD. These have serious side effects with use of these inhalers.
- Do not use ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 if you have taken other long-acting beta-2 agonists. Ask your doctor if you must use.
- Do not use ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 more often than prescribed. Do not take ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 with other medicines that contain long-acting beta-2 agonists for any reason. Tell your doctor about all medicines you are taking and about all your medical conditions.
- ADVAIR DISKUS 250/50 can cause serious side effects, including:
 - serious allergic reactions. Call your healthcare provider or get emergency medical care if you get any of the following symptoms of a serious allergic reaction: rash, hives, swelling of the face, mouth and tongue, breathing problems.
 - sudden breathing problems, immediately after inhaling your medicine.
 - effects on the heart: increased heart rate, a fast and irregular heartbeat, chest pain.
 - effects on the eyes: eye pain, redness, swelling.
 - reduced adrenal function (may result in loss of energy).
 - changes in blood sugar, potassium, and calcium levels of white blood cells.
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before + after:
kitchen

Designed with the kids in mind

Parallel workstations and several thoughtful details make this light and airy space function for the entire household. BY KIMBERLY HOLLOWAY • Photography PAUL DYER



Children could be the last consideration when undertaking a redo, but for Deirda Carson, making everything kid-friendly was key. In remodeling the kitchen of her Kensington, Calif. home, Carson, that meant populating one side of the room with an undercounter beverage ledge stocked with milk boxes and juice drinks, lots of open shelving, and a deep recessed dishwasher storage nook right alongside a dishwasher. "That way the kids can load it and unload it too," says this working mother of six. She made the other side of the kitchen the next prep center, with a go-to-style range and a large-capacity ledge, as well as a second, larger sink and another dishwasher. White subway tile, marble countertops, and white cabinets give the space a fresh, timeless look. But to make it up, "we gave the island four legs and a different color so it looks like furniture," says John Votaw, who made all the custom carpentry. "That meant extra depth and stability on a white kitchen." Deirda's grade-liss-as-the-kid-accessible features, however. "Everything's just easy to get," she says, "and easy to get away."



before: The space needed freshening and a more family-oriented layout. **after:** Deirda work area that dishwashers, and easy access storage make a better fit for homeowners Deirda Carson here with three of her six kids and her partner, Chris Barry.



before

The 260-square-foot cook space felt dated.



after

Two decades allowed for a longer island with seating, cluttered areas were more landing space near the countertop, and more natural light where open shelves replaced upper cabinets.

1 Swapped upper cabinets for open shelves, and lowered the windows to bring in more daylight and offer better views.

2 Went kid-friendly along the side wall with a storage shelf and a dishwasher that fits in a deep storage drawer for plates.



3 An island with hand-turned leg-painted cabinets with rubber-lined wheels, and substantial living for the space a handy desk.

Kaiser Hill Products, Reclamation Hardware

3 Added a food pantry opposite the desk means make up for lost cabinet storage.

4 Removed upper cabinets next to the cooking to introduce a more open range hood view.

5 Lengthened the island and ground seating on the side to keep kids and guests out of the cooking fray. Added a larger island table.

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the key details

4 The same cabinets, countertop, and window trim update the kitchen and perimeter design using new steel crafts and wood



4 An open shelf runs across the top of the windows to give the sink wall a finished look. The hanging ledge is stacked with dishes, drunks, and pulls. Restoration Hardware



homeowner tip
DEBRA CANNON KENFIELD, CALIF.

"We lowered the sink windows for a better view of the trees and grass in a busy kitchen, that's good for the eyes and the mind."



4 A schoolhouse pendant and frequent overhang give the breakfast room a more rustic side. Pendant Restoration Hardware

4 A narrow pullout gets side within the cabinets. The island's four-hole-style legs are positioned to maximize cabinet storage space.



4 A dishware drawer is centered off with adjustable pegs to make it easy for kids to enjoy the dishwasher and eat the table.



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before + after:
bath

A new spot and a new look

Redesigning the second floor made space for an airy, spacious retreat with period-style finishes and plenty of storage. By DEBORAH BALDWIN • Photographs by LUCYLA MOORE



Built-in dressers make good use of low clearance space in this corner.

One second-floor client told us another. Tom and Joan Hagan's 1940s Colonial Revival, in Ho-Ho-Kus, New Jersey, came with space added by the previous owner, including a room off the master bedroom with closets in the eaves, including one for a washer and dryer. After "harnessing our elbows" as the tiny original master bath one tiny messy room, says Joan, they asked designer Tom Santanaro to convert the built-in closet into a closet and the adjacent room into a master bath with separate behind-closed-doors access for the toilet and the laundry. As for the look, Joan says, "I wanted something classic and updated but not too ornate." Santanaro removed a chimney to raise a section of the roof to accommodate the toilet room, a shower enclosure, and a claw-foot tub; built two sets of drawers into the remaining downstairs space, and installed custom floor box throughout. He even slipped a home desk above between bedroom and bath. "I do e-mail there—it's questionable the kitchen," says Joan, mother of three, adding that the suite is now her favorite place to linger. "It's so peaceful and calming. I really love it."



In fact, Joan kept her sleeping room. The room was a cribbed with a laundry closet after. Converting it to a bath required raising a chair bay for pipes and eliminating a corner. Built-in and classic finishes keep the look clean and just there. Julia K. Miller



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• The tub alone, flanking the toilet room and the shower enclosure, is set off by a pendant ceiling with recessed lights. The marble floor is detailed with ceramic diamonds. Tub frother, shower, Andersen. Pendant: Hudson Valley Lighting.

• Glass shelves keep fresh towels handy and reflect light from the new windows. Porcelain fittings have a matte-slick finish. Gateway tile. Quincy Ceramic.



after

Eliminating a corner and taking a section of wall freed up usable floor space. Wall's went up for the relocated laundry and a new cloak area.

before

The 330 square-foot catchall, speckled two-tones, with floor closets—one for laundry—under the same.



1 Took down a dormer and moved the end to fit in a toilet room, tub alone, and shower enclosure.

2 Created a deck alcove that acts as a buffer between the bathroom and the bath.

3 Added a closet inside the bath to hold a closet washer and dryer as well as a laundry cabinet and an open shelf for soap, sponges, supplies.



4 Put in a two-sink vanity, with recessed open shelves in the side walls in lieu of medicine cabinets.

5 Built in two sets of deep drawers under the vanity and space, eliminating the clutter between showers.

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the key details

† The frameless shower enclosure doors—and reflects—light from the double window over the tub.



† The shower is lined with a mix of marble, mosaic and hand-painted tile framed by ceramic chair rail and subway tiles.



† The toilet has its own room, complete with a sink, a mirror, and a hand-drying Towel machine. For the Source Monitor™, see page 104.

† The cozy desk alcove, with oak flooring to match the bedroom, adds the expansive feeling of a whole other room to the master suite. See and share: Draper DSS



homeowner tip

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Speak to your doctor to decide if joint replacement surgery is appropriate for you. Individual results may vary and not all patients will return to the same activity level. The lifetime of any device is limited and depends on several factors like weight and activity level. Your doctor will help counsel you about activities to potentially prolong the lifetime of the device, including avoiding high-impact activities, such as running, as well as maintaining a healthy weight. Ask your doctor if the GetAroundKnee is right for you.

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Colorful, eclectic breakfast nook

A mix of period trim and vintage-inspired furniture in vibrant hues creates a casual gathering spot that's both classic and contemporary. By SILLIAN MARSH • Photograph by TARA GIOVANNI

Want to inject personality into a little space? Borrow elements from the past and make 'em pop. Case in point: this cheerful breakfast nook, whose glossy blue-painted Craftsman-style milkwork ombrages with red-lacquered French Colonial dining chairs arranged around a dark mahogany table. Above it all is a multi-tiered collection of bottles lined up on a beaded plate rail. "I love the way the light comes through the glass," says Steven Gambel, the New York City interior designer who envisioned the space. The boisterous earthy greens and browns balance the zapped-up red and lacqua tones on the chairs and striped armless sofa while basking at the lush garden glimpsed through the dandel light windows. The combination is a relaxed, easy space that's rich in character and color. To bring this look to your home, read on. ■



bold chairs

Red armchairs with upholstered seats look like a colorful table to be longer. \$125 each. \$140 per chair. thebigzoo.com



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Bring the outdoors in with a grassy green tray. Use it to corral a beaded chandelier and fresh-cut flowers. Tray: \$25. www.1000.com. Holder and chandelier style vase: \$25 and \$35. furniture.com



PHOTOGRAPH BY TARA GIOVANNI. STYLING BY SILLIAN MARSH. FURNITURE: THE BIG ZOO



star-light chandelier

A candle-style hanging lamp fixture adds femininity to a casual space. *Stylish Furniture* chandelier, \$175. *and shades*, \$100 each. *Stylish Furniture*



DIY plate rail

Make a Craftsman shelf using black parts from the hardware store. Only the brackets are needed. Order the shelf and back from where they overlap, and half round to finish the shelf edge. About \$6.50 per foot for feet for all stock parts. Cost brackets: \$4 each. thebigzoo.com



recycled bottles

Use the glass in your own fridge and medicine chest. For bottles to create a luminous linear on a shelf or atop kitchen cabinets. Old bottles, such as this cobalt blue Milk of Magnesia one, can be found for silver bucks.



floating floods

Group ultraviolet light bulbs in a decorative glass jar for a glowing fresh display. Print this red poppy and others for free at thebigzoo.com. Floating frame: \$30. penn.com



pedestal table

The dark finish on this round table has an amazing effect in a room full of vibrant color. An 18-inch square, you seat a crowd. \$455. jovary.com



armless sofa with bright accents

Get away with a sofa and accessories with bold pillows and throw for the same price as for less. They're custom-made slipcover. Sofa: \$50. Less: \$25. Pillow: \$25. Throw: \$25. For details, see page 6. thebigzoo.com. Throws: \$25 each. thebigzoo.com



FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE DIRECTORY PAGE 126

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Will the vinyl crack or fade?

Properly installed vinyl windows can deliver major energy savings—and a look that's convincingly like wood. Here, five things to hunt for in a quality unit.

by DEBRAH BALLENGER Photographs by GINA GRIM

They used to be a low-maintenance default when it came time to replace leaky or rotting wood double-hungs. But, over time, white vinyl could yellow, colored vinyl wash out, and the material itself split or crack in extreme temperatures. Times have changed. The vinyl window shown here—full frame, fully assembled, and ready to install—comes in no-fade colors and faux-grain finishes that weather well in any climate. And its sturdy construction and insulated glass meet Energy Star criteria. Read on for other five items worth a second look.

The best vinyl has additives that protect against brittleness, yellowing, or fading. Sash and frame extrusions should have welded corners and stainless-steel or aluminum fasteners for strength, rigidity and insulation.

To maximize heat loss and gain, a quality window conducts heat, gas and "warm edge" spacers between double-pane panes. Low-e coatings reflect heat and protect furnishings from fading.

Look for a "double lifetime" warranty that covers potential performance problems, such as deterioration between the panes, and can be transferred to the next homeowner.



Premium windows can be ordered with a different color on the interior to match or contrast with house trim.

4

Look for an Energy Star-qualified unit, its efficiency and sturdiness have been independently verified by the National Fenestration Rating Council. Windows (like this one) with Gold Seal Certification from the American Architectural Manufacturers Association have also passed strict structural integrity tests.

5

Double frames that fill in are easiest to clean (no need for a ladder), as are double panes with grilles sandwiched in between, as shown. Never use a pressure washer, which can damage seals and break glass.

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paint
ideas

Refresh your walls with faux fabric

By TONY HARTMAN • Photographs by WILKINILL T. WUNDER

Ingenious, on a stick, is a way to add interest to a smooth surface. The technique is as simple as pulling a dry brush through a coat of wet tinted glass. It allows a range of looks, including abstract, fringe-like "swirls." One thing to know before getting started: "We've really got to work quickly," says decorative painter Japine Laves, who recommends having one person roll on the glass while another one does the dragging. The effect is pronounced when there's a clear contrast between the base- and stick-end colors, so use of similar misty eye-candy shades of color will yield a subtler look. Whereas the play of color will become thrown into relief as the paint dries, the swirls will flow the crisp white chisel end. Beth's Cowardville Hall is topped by a continuous pattern of Merisierne over Seaside Night, evoking the warmth of your favorite jeans. Above it, Beth's Ashwood is topped by a sunny pattern in Ultra Pure White for a look that's subtle to the touch.

To see how Locus works, there's lots of info with poems and books, read on.

Turner: Two days.

10

Dragging the brush from top to bottom is easier when a native off-road bike is used.

Look for a brush that is stiff and coarse, like a white brush, a scrub brush, or this wallpaperer's brush with the soft bristles tied off.



1000

1. Mix the glass coat for the upper walls: roll it in. Once the base coat is dry, use sheetrock tape to mix equal parts glass and the first color. In this latex, stir, and pour into a paint tray. Beginning at the top corner of the upper wall, cut in and roll the glass from the ceiling down to the chair rail. To keep the glass from drying before you drag it, don't go wider than 3 feet.



3. Roll and drag the wainscot vertically. When the wainscot base color is dry, mix glass with the second color as in Step 1. Starting at the top left corner, cut in and roll on a band of glass between the chair rail and baseboard. Drag the wet glass pulling steadily from top to bottom without stopping. Roll the wet patch, overlapping the first by several inches. Repeat.

2. Drag the glass vertically. From your brush, trip the wet layer at the top corner and pull down. The brush should cut grooves through the glass to expose the base color. Continue at one uninterrupted stroke to the chair rail. On the next section, overlap the first dragged area slightly to avoid a visible seam. Use a cleaning or paper towel to wipe excess glass off the brush.



4. Roll and drag the wainscot horizontally. With the first dragged layer completely dry—a dry should do it—mix glass with the third color. Roll it on in a manageable strip running left to right beneath the chair rail. Be sure to get paint between the grooves of your first layer with the roller. Now drag the full width of the wall. Roll on the next strip and repeat to the baseboard. ■



Tip: Hang plumb lines—you can make your own by tying a string to a nail and a weight—just off the wall for a visual guide as you apply the vertical strokes.



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New and notable problem-solvers

After scouring the market, TOH editors tracked down 23 household helpers for kitchen and bath, from a worth-the-sponge fridge with a hands-free water dispenser to simple fixes for under \$25, like a ring that keeps hand towels off the floor. Look closely. We're even giving some away.

+ take-control faucet

With two sensors, the MicroSense After Faucet, from Delta, senses on both functions of the faucet. The water turns on with the wave of a hand above or below. It even responds to a pat that needs filling or to a mist that can't quite reach the handle. From \$625. delta.com



+ the right weigh

QIQ is a new food scale gives up to 32 pounds and its pull-out display measures large items won't get in the way when you're reading. Available in October. \$70. qiq.com



+ sweet bathroom suite

The only 20th-century inspired bathroom suite, accessory collection, and the gamut of towel and ring, towel rack, a paper holder—plus a soap dish, a shelf and a cup holder (pat. pending). Coordinating light fixture are also available. In gray, white or black. From \$25. rejuvenation.com



+ bath bargain

At about 25 inches wide and under \$300, Delta's Hanna vanity with three open shelves, ready to go into a built-in bath makeover. A cleverly designed water trap allows a full-size shower up top. \$279. delta.com



+ stone look for less

Formica's 3Dfx laminate allows a stone look for less. It comes in white quartzite but won't leave you stone broke. Its realistic pattern repeats every 5 feet, instead of the standard 18 inches and with knowledge from its bullnose. She takes look seamless. From \$25 per square foot. formica.com



+ design-your-own backdrop

Are you tired of shopping for the backdrop that's just right? Delta's new Atmosphere is for The Home Depot to help you out, offering a coordinated set of products from which to create your backdrop. From \$2.99 per square foot. homedepot.com



+ shade makeover

Brighten up your lights with a bit of color. Made of painted vinyl, these adaptable shade covers are flame-resistant or shade-shaped to focus light down onto a table or workspace. From \$30. rejuvenation.com



+ five-piece set

The Blender Collection by Kyles brings it all together: mixer, pitcher, blender, and cabinet. Add a flour sifter and stand and you're done. Prefer another mix style? The design expert handles the job. \$27.99. kyles.com



+ fully loaded fridge

Maximizing features at the new GE Profile® 18-inch Deep Fridge includes a built-in water dispenser with four temperature settings and a filter that removes 98 percent of impurities and BPA from pharmaceuticals. \$7,000. geappliances.com



+ blow off steam automatically

In addition to three speeds, the Broan Elite RH15000S range hood has a temperature detector that kicks the fan to low when things heat up—and it's among the quietest most efficient models around. \$952. broan.com



+ DIY custom cabinets

Most basic-colored cabinets won't stand if there's a drawer on top. Enter SmartCabs from Hilti, which lets you build a drawer and has sturdy wood construction and interchangeable inserts, such as a cutting board and a spice rack. From \$290. hilti.com/us



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getwall.com



+ rounded side-by-side

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Bullgrove double-based cat house
can be folded provides extra snug
room for pets and the rear net
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+ easy-clean oven

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which uses steam to
200-degrees F and 2 cups
of water to loosen grime
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cook for a crowd. From
\$750. maytag.com

+ no-worry wood floors

Put down wood in the kitchen with
no fear of water. Stone is Hudson
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come in stained styles and have
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+ countertop multitasker

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+ dispel cooking odors

It's the lingering smell of food prep
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cartridge neutralizes after-the-meal
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+ power shower

Ever think it'd be nice to press **PAUSE**
on the shower when soaping up in the
shower? With the digitally controlled
Luxorpa P1022, you can. The 3.6-gpm
wide head has four spray patterns
and a timer. \$70. luxorpa.com



+ tiny sink

The Zebra brand van I
crave: pet-friendly powder
room. Though just
16 1/2 inches wide, this
hugely made micro-cube
is a stylish powder. \$225.
hazdipetfriendly.com



+ sleek and sturdy

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Hide and sleep

A multi-staged Murphy bed hides your dog's crash pad inside a fetching built-in cabinet. **by KATHY LANGOLF • photograph by ROBIN SMITH**

Your dog may be as cute as a button, but the typical dog bed—beige, obnoxious, marked with fur—can't so much. Instead of banishing his sleeping spot to the basement, leave it front and center and build a just-size Murphy bed that stores a sleeping pad inside a handsome built-in cabinet. The flat top offers a convenient spot for your dog's treats and toys, and when guests are due to arrive you can tuck the bed out of the way with little fuss.

Before you dash off to buy materials, size up your pooch and the room he'll sleep in to make sure you've got enough space. (A Murphy bed for a Great Dane will be a mighty big piece of furniture.) The easiest way to size the bed is to make it large enough to hold a pad or mattress that your dog is comfortable sleeping on; check product labels for the size that suits your breed. If you're not using a mattress, get the bed's dimensions by measuring your dog's length and width while he's snoring, then adding at least 4 inches to each number. Whether he sleeps on a mattress or a favorite old blanket, your dog will be glad to have a bed of his own—one that's tidy enough to put in any room. ■



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Further the bed by tucking it in the back of the cabinet.



how we made our bed

See with a few photographs and a project list how we designed and built our built-in dog bed. Building it at doghousefinds.com. doghousefinds.com.

- 1 THE CABINET** A simple box built from plywood and 2x materials holds the mattress. We topped ours with a shelf to hold a cushion, magnetic catches and a locking pin on one side secure the bed up tight when not in use.
- 2 THE BED** Cabinet doors held together with boards and attached to the cabinet with a key box hinge. Bed rests to serve as the desk. The mattress is placed in a frame of 2x material that is attached to the back side of the doors.
- 3 THE DRAWER FRONT** A tube drawer is fastened to the back of the bed frame with key box hinges so that it can be pulled out as the "foot" of the Murphy bed.



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Add a rustic touch with old garden gear

Vintage watering cans, shapely sprinklers, and wood-slat benches can bring color and character to outdoor spaces—and indoor ones, too. By AMY BLOMBERG • Photographs by LAURA MOORE

Like a perfectly seasoned cast-iron skillet, garden tools and ornaments tend to get better with age. There may be rust or chipped paint, but nothing a little WD-40 or a new clear finish can't remedy.

In fact, weathered surfaces are what make those old metal stakes and benten watering cans so desirable, often times for uses other than those for which they were originally designed. The head of a rake, for instance, can double as a wineglass holder, with crystal stems nestled between the tines. Fanned with a dollar-store vase filled with fresh-cut blooms, an old, leaky watering can could serve as a rustic centerpiece on a patio table or a dining room buffet.

Sometimes all you've got to do to see a garden ornament as a new, more flattering light is to take it out of context. So rather than toss that forlorn-looking bench (or a tangle of rags) out back, put it in your way.





SHOP SMART Find vintage garden gear, such as these outdoor spigot handles and spring clips, at flea markets, antique stores, and online for as little as \$1 each.

loper with a couple of vibrant theme pillows to create a chic and comfy spot for pulling on boots.

Old terra-cotta pots, which get a white-and-green cast from mineral deposits and algae, can also add character. A few small ones planted with herbs usually brighten a kitchen windowsill. Even a simple clay saucer can become a truck and vegetable focal point. Just add pebbles for drainage, then soil and a hardy—and moisture-loving—plant, such as an East Indian holly fern. Top with a tall glass cloche and you've got yourself a centerpiece for a sunny spot on the porch or in the living room.

For my garden salvage project, I used colorful outdoor spigot handles and a length of red-stained cedar casing to create a cherry wall hang tool rack. The handle "books" are great for keeping my hand towels and rakes at the ready and for holding my sun hat. Follow along to see how I made it.

STEP-BY-STEP

Spigot-handle tool rack

Organize your garden gear with this fun and functional tool rack made from old wood casing. Five weathered spring clips and bright, colorful outdoor spigot handles (The Old Time Junk Shop, otj.com). All you need is a few minutes, the tools in a basic kit, and a little creativity and elbow grease. To mount each handle, use a 1/4-inch galvanized lag screw threaded with a corresponding nylon spacer, both available at hardware stores.

COST \$25 for the weathered spigot handles, spring clips, and hardware.
TIME 1 hour
DIFFICULTY Simple. No heavy lifting or fancy tools required.



1 Seal the wood and guard against kud-paint dust and chips by spraying the surface with clear polyurethane in a satin sheen. The finish will also weatherize the wood so that it'll hold up outdoors.



4 Drill pilot holes for the handle posts. Fit your drill's driver with a bit that's slightly smaller than the screw's shank, steady it on the marks on the wood rim, and bore holes for the lag screws.

2 Measure for the spigot-handle books. Make a pencil mark on the wood where you want each handle to go, keeping in mind that the handles should be evenly spaced. In place of two handles, I used vintage spring clips—great for holding long-handled tools—that I scored at a flea market, but hardware stores sell new clips in various shapes and sizes.



5 Secure the posts. Hand-tighten the lag screws into the holes and tighten each one with a socket wrench.

3 Mount the handles on the screw posts. Insert lag screws through the handles' center holes, and hold in the nylon spacers. If a hole is too small, clamp the handle to your work table, put a 1/4-inch bit in the chuck of a drill/driver, and widen it.



6 Finish by adding the spring clips and hanging your rack. On a pair of pencil marks between two sets of handles, drill pilot holes (be sure to switch to a smaller bit [1/8 inch] for the spring-clip fasteners, and hold in the screws). Now find a nice spot for your rack. Install it using the proper hanging hardware for the wall type, and start organizing your garden tools. ■

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PHOTO: PHOTOSHOP REDO

Dressing up a cookie-cutter ranch

Parade improvements, including a new roof and porch, give a simple one-story house an elegant new look. *By DEBORAH SWOONDAH • Illustration by HOWARD DIGITAL*



(before)

Julie Robinson of Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, misses as words when she talks about the exterior of her two-bedroom 1954 ranch. "There's nothing appealing about it," she told us. "It's very blah." To help her out, we asked architect Michael T. Gray of Essex, Massachusetts, for a few ideas on how to improve it.

Gray told us that Julie's description fits many houses from the same era. "They were built inexpensively, so they often lack texture and architectural features, the very things that make a house feel unique," he says. His modifications—a street-facing gable, a front porch, and a two-color-shake roof—give the house more definition and distinction. The gable and eyebrow dormer could be installed when the house is renovated, he says. To balance the facade, he suggests adding more windows to the gable side of the house and changing the ones on the opposite side. Finally, a yellow-and-white paint scheme offers a cherry look. Julie agrees wholeheartedly. "The color makes my house pop!" she says. "And the new roofline and eyebrow add so much character and curb appeal." ■



Finishing touches

Accents with traditional styling add polish to a house that's basically a blank slate. ➔



front door

Colored lights on the upper portion make the windows gleam. *From \$750*



roofing

Stylish polymer shakes look like wood but won't splinter or rot. *Delmar Roofing* \$295 per square foot, untreated



paint

Bright yellow looks friendly and welcoming. *Alta 4 Sun Shiner by Olympic* \$25 per gallon



porch

This minimal inspired option keeps an understated price. *Bunker* \$27



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Give this big exterior a chance to shine with one of our packages of selected finishes. Includes labor to perform shakes/roofing worth \$25,000 each. For details, see page 109. *Graphic: FreshHouse.com*

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PHOTO: BOB LANGRISH (LEFT); JAMES HARRIS (RIGHT); JAMES HARRIS (RIGHT); JAMES HARRIS (RIGHT)

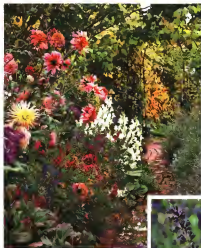
landscaping

Late bloomers

By August, most perennial gardens are fading away. But with a little planning, you can tailor your plantings for a strong end-of-summer show. Here's how **by ROBERT MUMFORD**

Once the first days of summer hit, flower gardens generally start looking tired. Colors wash out, edges brown, blossoms become fewer in number. But Catherine Mix needs glimmers, color-filled beds from June to September. As co-owner of The Cutting Garden in Sequim, Washington, with her husband, Tom, she tends several acres of gardens that serve as a lush backdrop for weddings and other outdoor events and provide blooms for the bouquets and flower arrangements she creates. So she's discovered plants and strategies that deliver a brilliant show even in late summer. Here are some of her tricks that any homeowner can try: **Make it easy.** Mix grows a wide array of plants, including long-blooming annuals like asters, cosmos, zinnias, sunflowers, linum, and celosia. After planting, she mulches once with a 3-inch layer of rich compost to deter weed seeds, conserve soil moisture, and add nutrients. She also grows a number of flowers that self-seed in her beds. "If you don't weed too hard in spring, these come back every year," she says.

Prune strategically. As soon as early-blooming delphiniums pass their peak, Mix cuts them back nearly to the ground and encourages them into producing a second flush of flowers. She constantly deadheads other summer bloomers, such as zinnias, snapdragons, and cosmos, so that they're always flowering. **Delay gratification.** Some of the best plants for late-summer-to-early-fall color, such as chrysanthemums,



long-lasting color. Atrium walkway surrounded by vibrant flowers winds its way through its site in this Spokane, Washington, garden. The plantings showcase some of master Catherine Mix's favorites for late-season color: flowering multi-colored Asters, as well as snapdragons (shown) so vibrant that she keeps its bloom with constant deadheading, and late-blooming (RIGHT) that she selectively cuts back for a second wave of color.



sters, asters, and 'Autumn Joy' asters, tend to flop over just when they're about to bloom. Mix's solution? Cut back the stems by a third when the plants are about half their expected height. "They bloom later," Mix says. "But they stay lower to the ground, so they don't flop so much." Similarly, the sedum can back several inches per plant in each cluster when they're 8 to 12 inches tall. "Doing this can move back their bloom time by two to four weeks for a second wave of color."

Zones your garden. Lavender, sage, and other plants that flourish in Mediterranean regions are good choices for late summer color. But Mix has found that even in Sequim's arid climate—it gets just 13 inches of rain a year—what works for other perennials doesn't work for these drought-tolerant species. "We were killing them with too much water and nutrition," she says. So now she dedicates a couple of "dry" beds, with no irrigation, to these needs. Rather than muck with compost, she lays water-permeable ground cloth, cuts X's through it to add plants, then spreads bark mulch to keep the soil free of debris. Ongoing care is easy, since these plants die back when watered only rarely. Make shade an ally. Hydrangeas grow in sun or shade in the Northwest, but Mix has discovered that the more the plants in sun bloom for about two weeks, while those in shade stay in bloom for two months. In addition to blue hydrangeas, she especially loves *Hydrangea paniculata* 'Lanelight', whose cone-shaped flower clusters are green when they first appear and then mature to white.

With you could put Mix's advice to work right now? You can. Shop for perennials in their full glory, dig holes where you want them, drop them in (pace and all), and enjoy. If you decide to change their locations, moving them is easy. Since perennials generally die back if planted in early spring or late fall, wait for them to begin to die back, then plant them properly. They'll be flush with color again this time next summer.



Some of Mix's end-of-summer stars

1. Aster (Aster) White to pink to purple along the flowers. Most are 2 to 3 feet wide and 10 to 12 inches tall. Blooms with yellow centers, and flowers mature over to full. Full sun. Up to 3 feet high. 18 inches wide. Zones 5 to 10.

2. Dublin (Aster) Strong blooms in every color (except blue) and most. And reaching from flowering to 8 inches wide and stems up to 5 feet high. Grows from tubers that can be left outside in Zones 8 and above. Must be dug up and overwintered indoors elsewhere. Full sun.

3. Bee balm (Monarda) The square stems, opposite foliage, and bright colors are attractive to pollinators. Comes in 10 to 12 inch, rounded foliage and flowers that bloom from summer to early fall. Full sun to partial shade. Up to 5 feet high. 2 feet wide. Zones 4 to 9.

4. Tobacco plant (Nicotiana) White and sometimes pink flowers. Fragrant. Good for a prairie-like look. Full sun to partial shade. Up to 5 feet high. 2 feet wide. The stems in Zones 10 and 11 grow as an annual elsewhere.

5. Culver's root (Alchemilla) The stems are upright. These tall, slender plants add height to summer borders. The narrow leaves of *Alchemilla* are covered with pale purple flowers from late summer to early fall. Full sun to partial shade. Up to 5 feet high. 2 feet wide. Zones 3 to 9.

6. Hyacinth (Hyacinth) The stems are 2 to 4 feet tall. These flowers are perfect for shorter borders. Honey Blue Blue has vibrant blue and yellow purple green foliage from mid- to late summer. Full sun to 3 feet high. 2 feet wide. Zones 5 to 10.

7. Sea holly (Erythronium) Blue or white cone-shaped flowers that add color to late summer borders. Honey Blue Blue has vibrant blue and yellow purple green foliage from mid- to late summer. Full sun to 3 feet high. 2 feet wide. Zones 5 to 9.

8. Shrubhyacinth (Hyacinth) A good choice for low borders. This species typically reaches only 2 feet high. Red Ace has semi-double cone-shaped flowers from late spring through fall. Full sun. Up to 2 feet high. 5 feet wide. Zones 5 to 7.

9. Crocosmia (Crocosmia) Grows from a bulb. Crocosmia is a Victorian-era import that is enjoying a comeback. The lance-shaped foliage of *Crocosmia* is complemented by tall, upright stems topped with brilliant red-orange flowers from mid- to late summer. Full sun to partial shade. Up to 3 feet high. 18 inches wide. Zones 6 to 10.

10. Cardoon (Cynara cardunculus) A decorative biennial that flowers with aromatic purple or pink blooms from summer to fall. Its silver leaves have lines typical of thistles. Full sun. Up to 6 feet high. 3 feet wide. Zones 3 to 10.



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weekend
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How to build a privacy planter

Use cedar and stock lumber to spruce up—and shield—your backyard

By JOSEPH TRUZZI • Photographs by KYLE MATTIE

COST \$475

TIME 8-12 hours

DIFFICULTY Fairly easy. With mostly square cuts, only basic carpentry skills are required.



"Hiding out" isn't a bad thing. Or maybe it's just the way you're already feeling. AC, parking at you from the corner of the house. Either way, this looping, leafy privacy planter provides an attractive screen, not to mention a convenient way to corral your guest thanks.

The planter frame is constructed of rot-resistant pressure-treated lumber and clad with rustic red cedar, which is naturally resistant to decay, to match the rails. Cedar's make it easy to roll the screen across a patio, porch, or deck, so you can shut out the neighbors whenever you wish. You can bet they'll be peeking as you put the beauty together using the instructions on the following page.



For complete instructions, turn the page

4



4. Sheathe the planter

A. Install the 2x6s. With the planter frame sprigged, lock the centers to keep it from racking. Use a miter saw to cut to length the 2x6 cedar boards that sheathe the planter. Start at the top front of the frame and work your way around to one end, then back, and the opposite end. Note that each board's overlaps are at the end of the rail board and that the overlaps of each course are offset from those of the one above it. Drill pilot holes and secure the boards with 1 1/2-inch stainless-steel or trim-head screws.

B. Fasten the last row. After completing the top row, work your way down, fastening each board with trim-head screws. The fourth and final row will slightly overhang the base plates.

5. Build the trellis

A. Make the legs. The trellis is a series of overlapping cedar boards. Interlock horizontal 2x3 and 1x6 cuts and vertical 2x2 pickets. Two 1x6 1x6 cedar legs sheathe the planter box and hold the trellis in place, and are capped with 1x6 cedar bauls. Cut the pickets length on the miter saw. Place a 2x2 picket on each leg. 1x6s from the rear offset; you can use 1x4 or 3/4-inch boards, as shown, to set the spacing. Drill pilot holes and attach the pickets with 2-inch deck screws.

B. Install the slats. Prop the legs on edge with the pickets facing inward and the 1x6s sheathing down. Lay the slats between the legs on the pickets, starting flush at the top of the trellis, with 1x6s. Drill pilot holes and secure the slat with 2-inch deck screws. Next, install a 1x4 baul from the 1x6s, use a pair of short 2x2s as a spacer block, as shown. Continue alternating the 3x6 and 1x4 slats, securing all.

C. Install the pickets. Turn the trellis over. Cut a wood block 5 1/2 inches long, and use it as a spacer to set the 2x2 pickets evenly between the legs. Make their ends flush with the top slat, then fasten them one by one with 1 1/2-inch trim-head screws. Flip the trellis back over and attach the front pickets from underneath, as shown. Center each one between the pickets on the opposite side.

5



6. Complete the trellis

A. Clip the corners of the top trim. Cut to length a 1x4 cedar baul to span the top of the trellis panel. Use a combination square to mark 45-degree corners, flush from each corner. Set the miter saw to 45 degrees, and clip off the four corners.

B. Attach the top trim. Set the trim piece against the top of the trellis panel, as shown, and center it so that it is equal on both overhangs each side. The end pickets will hold it to the top 1x6s and the ends of the legs will hold it in head screws.

C. Build the trellis to the planter box. Cut a 1x3 cedar board to the length that the planter box uses as cap trim. Set one the rear edge at the planter box, flush with the inside edge. Drill pilot holes and secure the cap with trim-head screws. Stand the completed trellis against the planter box, lowering the cap trim. Hold the legs flush with the rear of the planter box. Drive three staggered 1/2-inch-diameter nails into one leg and through the end of the planter box. Insert a carriage bolt into each hole. Pull the washer and nut onto each bolt and end tighten with a socket wrench. Repeat for the other leg.



6

Tip Place an tempered bag or two of gravel inside the planter box to act as ballast while you built on the trellis.

7



7. Install the cap trim

A. Match the end pieces. Use a square to notch the 2x4 end pieces to fit around the trellis legs. Mark them where they meet the front inside corners of the box, then miter them out 45 degrees from that mark. Drill pilot holes and secure the trim with trim-head screws.

B. Install the front cap. Mark, miter and install the 2x4 front cap trim piece with trim-head screws. Coat all the wood with look-alike. Spread a 1/2-inch layer of crushed stone over the floorboards. On top of the stone, use the planter box with landscape fabric. Fill with potting soil, and plant your favorite herbs and flowers.

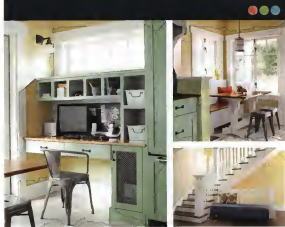


21st-CENTURY CRAFTSMAN

A CAREFUL THREE-STAGE REDO—COMPLETE WITH SPACE-ENHANCING BUILT-INS—OPENED UP THIS 1918 BUNGALOW TO A NEW WAY OF LIVING

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ALEX HAYDEN | PRODUCED BY COLETTE SCANLON | STYLING BY MICHELLE GREGO





It's not often that a house comes with nice neighborhood, period charm, and a just-right kitchen—plus a game plan to make the house even better. But when Anden Brown and Monica Wells Brown first stepped out their one-and-a-half-story 1918 cottage in downtown Seattle, that's all they found in a street pair with an updated vintage look to an ambitious master plan.

The kitchen and ready-when-you-are architectural drawings came courtesy of the previous owners and J.A.S. Design-Build, a one-stop firm known for turning downy workers' bungalow into one-stop-making showpieces. The couple bought the whole package. "We fell in love with the kitchen, then built a house around it," says Anden, only partly joking.

Earlier, during stage one of what would become a three-stage redo, J.A.S. had not only renovated the kitchen and upstairs bath but also reinforced the framing and added support piers for a new second floor, along with hidden computer wires and cables, in hopes of returning one day to finish the job.

So when the house changed hands, "the core framework was already there, and that added momentum to the project," Anden says.

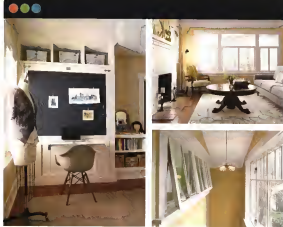
The couple had other reasons for wanting to bring ahead. "The main was right in the middle and cut up the house," Monica says. Above them were only two bedrooms, the smaller one so small it could barely fit beds for Anden and Coochie, then 6 and 4. "They were definitely cozy for their own rooms," says Monica. And she and Anden were ready for their own private suite.

The master plan, devised by designers Ken Clements and Joe Schneider, called for a new set of stairs at the rear of the house, illuminated by large windows overlooking the yard. Upstairs, Clements says, the challenge was to create more use life space within the existing footprint. The designers' solution was to replace a small central corner with a larger one and to raise the roof a bit, which would allow the second story to grow just enough.

The family occupied to a cramped condo nearby,

MOVE LEFT? The family converted a corner into an extra per person plus an extra to share. The perforated iron-cast iron-cast front keeps computer equipment cool and wireless cables are hidden behind the walls. **TOP RIGHT:** The light third breakfast nook has built-in bench and a small footprint.

BOTTOM RIGHT: The relocated staircase has Craftsman-inspired balusters that form a light-filtering screen.



and a crew arrived to demolish the stairs and slice off the second floor, easily cutting around the upstairs bath and the roof over it, leaving them intact like a bat in a dining. Carpenters built new stairs with a custom balustrade, and the small upstairs grew to hold two beds' bedrooms and that longed-for master suite.

Intensive windows in daughter Cecelia's bedroom make the most of Seattle's famously scarce light. Lined up with the windows over the stairwell, they frame a view of trees from her new peachy-beds in captain's bed.

Which brings us to stage three. It began after the family left their cramped quarters behind and moved back into the house, gradually filling up every available bit of space. Soon, Cecelia needed a desk and more clothes storage. Monica, a kitchen-panini designer, craved a studio. Andra, a software consultant, wanted a spot for her laptop, and guests were cringing about her place to sleep.

J.A.S. returned to segment the stage-one built-in, adding the captain's bed and adjacent desk upstairs

and a novel Murphy bed-deck downstairs, which turned an early-20th-century bedroom into a 21st-century flex room. "We share it," says Monica, and Andra elaborates: During the day it's Monica's design lab, and come evening it's a quiet place for Andra to plunk down his laptop. "I can actually work there," he says. "I pull up a chair and I'm up and running."

When guests aren't exclaiming over the clever hide-away bed, they are talking up the "museopolis" gray-greens of the kitchen cabinets. Monica says, adding that it inspired the rest of the palette.

Everyone—even the friendly next-door neighbors, who years ago raised their own kids in this house—agrees that the new second floor looks from the outside as if it's always been there. The new dormers, after all, don't differ all that much from the original; it's just bigger. You have to step aside to really feel the difference. Unlike the house they bought nearly five years ago, "it's light and airy," says Monica. And when you're talking about a Seattle bungalow built in 1918, that's saying something. ■

ARCHITECT Patrick
The guard tied into the
columns and built it
in place, and a lip
extends beneath
magnetic blackboard
is at the ready
TOP RIGHT The living
room's original
beamed glass
windows, a light-
enhancing pale
color palette and
dark stained floor.
BOTTOM RIGHT
Windows added to
the new stairwell
channel light
inside and through
curved-up-style exterior
windows in a child's
bedroom. (OPPOSITE)



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Decorating your garden

Ornaments add another dimension to a landscape and give it year-round appeal. Here, nine takeaway lessons from one striking decorated green space

ORNAMENTS LEAVE IT AND THEN COME BACK. Garden ornaments are used to add a touch of whimsy and charm to a landscape. They can be used to add a touch of whimsy and charm to a landscape. They can be used to add a touch of whimsy and charm to a landscape.



Much more than an afterthought, garden ornaments can guide how you shape and use your outdoor space, and affect how it feels when you're in it. A wrought-iron gate can mark the entrance to a world of green, a tree-hug lantern may pose your perspective, a curved bench can be a cup. Carefully placed, pretty yet practical, these ornaments offer subtle but effective clues. You know. Look up. Slow down. They also give gardens space a finished look as all their seasons. The trick is to not overdo it. "A finished

garden shouldn't look too perfect or overdone," says Susan Ruhl, an interior designer who, with her architect husband, Ed, conceived the gardens at their rolling acre in Southern California. Their goal: "to create outside rooms as comfortable as the ones inside."

Just as they remade their 1950s ranch house in the style of a Tuscan farmhouse, the couple wanted a landscape with pillars. They started by adhering to a simple, mostly green palette of plants: climbing papaya, cypress,

and Chinese elm trees and rosemary, acacia, Virginia creeper, and white-barked roses. "Garden decor can get lost in a highly colorful landscape," says Ruhl. "The more quietly placed ornaments are the busy part, and they pop against the green background." Certain items, picked up over the years, may be priced and priced, but they share ground with climbing and many plants, as well as some too precious. Ruhl's collection is a mix of decorative objects in exotic, seductive outdoor settings.

By Susan Ruhl
Photographs by Jennifer Cheng
Production by Cathie Stanton
Styling by Ashley Houdeshell



Repeat the style and materials found on the outside of the house.

Whatever the style of your home, ornaments can carry it into the landscape, grounding the building in its setting. Here, to harmonize with the rustic stone-clad entry, urns and urns are set atop matched terra-cotta pedestals. In the courtyard, a pedestal decorated with dolphins and holding potted succulents echoes the theme and creates a focal point. The house's stone is picked up in the pavers, stained with grass that softens the walk to the front door.

L:



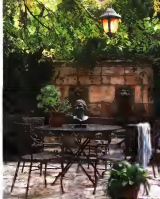
Dress up garden entrances, transitions, and routes.

Even in a small landscape, a sequence of discrete spaces, connected by passageways and paths, adds a sense of mystery and expansiveness to an ordinary stroll. The Bealls created a journey that begins with a wisteria draped arbor near the house and winds downhill across terraces, along walks, and down steps that continue the theme of eye-catching, weathered stone. Paths indicate the way, iron arches and gates—wrought from gardeners' supply catalogs and covered with vines—mark transitions to different areas. Potted bougainvillea, citrus trees, and palms further accent entries, as do linens perched on pedestals.

3

Tie the furnishings into the overall scheme.

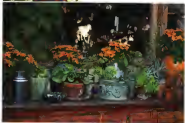
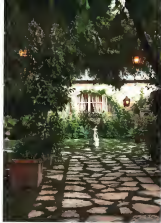
The style of any tables and chairs you choose has a big impact on the look of your outdoor spaces, of course. But they should also feel cohesive with the other decorative objects and materials you use. The Bealls found a pair of inexpensive rustic-finished iron dining sets at a pottery yard. With extra chairs scattered around the paved "carpet," they make a casual lounge for cocktails and conversation. Elsewhere, the couple created an outdoor living room, but instead of pricey all-weather wicker, they chose roll-arm wicker chairs from an import store and weatherized them with spray-on marine varnish. Concrete pottery-plant pedestals double as extra seats and cocktail tables. A black oval aluminum dining set anchors the main gather-round eating space.



Take lighting to another level.

Many landscapes are most romantic after dark—by the glow of the moon and when well-placed electric lights spotlight trees and light up paths.

The Bealls took their lighting a step further, hanging grooves outdoor lanterns from the boughs of trees. They also used tall streetlight-style lamps to punctuate patios and roundabouts. All these fixtures coordinate with the lights placed on the house's exterior walls.



5 Showcase plant collections.

Instead of hanging out favorite specimens for pots and pedestals, the Bealls grouped container plants where they could appreciate them at eye level. Ed, whose passion is succulents—*sedums*, *sedes*, *sedes*, *sedes*—displays them on a vintage pine table and a painted chest of drawers that he coated with a waterproof sealer for wood. “If you tucked these plants in beds they’d disappear,” Sue notes. “Here you can study all their unusual shapes.”

6

Use decorative elements to play up sound and scent.

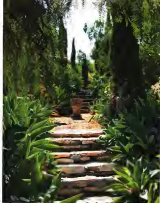
Nothing the trickle of water is an all-but-irresistible lure to exploring a garden. Listening to its music, you want to track it to its source, and in the Bealls landscape there are many. A fountain with an octagonal basin creates the liquid soundtrack for the herb garden. Another (No. 7), echoing the columnar shape of Italian cypress trees nearby, bubbles and flows like agaves, drawing hummingbirds in droves. Both pieces were pottery yard scraps, while the fountain with lions’ heads (No. 2, top) that cooks the lounge area is antique. And Plant perfumes often wafting from architectural containers demand their own bit of attention. The winding way (No. 1) welcome visitors with honeysuckle and jasmine, garden garden containers offer up lemon blossoms, and night-blooming cereus opens in pots around the main dining table (No. 3, bottom left).



7

Use plants themselves as ornaments.

Certain plants are inherently architecturally and can be pruned to look that way. Among those naturally shaped to give the garden guiding lines are tall, anemone-like cypresses, which rise like green columns against the Bealls' hillside views. Others include the rosebuds of Agave attenuata that tumble around stone stairways and fountains in dynamic contrast to the cramped, straight cypress.



9

To give a garden a lived-in look, choose objects with an aged quality.

Ornaments with the patina of antiques can make a new garden appear as if it's been growing forever. To achieve this illusion, the Bealls incorporated treasures from their travels—including Gothic cathedral fragments bought from a salvage dealer—into landscape scenes. Placed in a gravel clearing, these stone tablets and spires bring a fanciful, lost-city tableau to a garden designed just a few years ago. For a similar effect, they placed a concrete horse's head—a cast from one that had adorned the Parthenon—beside a bench. A garden ornament catalog lists it's right where a seated visitor can reach out and touch it. A landlith with a fish at its center, placed where paths converge, has the look of an Old World fountain. Rusty lanterns, plant baskets, and watering cans, some picked up at flea markets, round out the time-worn decor.



10

Add splashes of color with ceramics.

Appreciating the serenity of a largely green garden, the Bealls were splashing color accents so those that are there have great points. On a path outside the master bedroom they flanked French doors with tall, blue ceramic pots filled with foliage plants that draw the eye from a distance. A 1920s drinking fountain decked dramatically with vintage Malibu art (No. 5, top left) is repurposed as a planter holding more of Ed's succulents, among them the ferny, minted Kalenchoe thyrsiflora.



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BeallsHouse.com/Aug12

ALL ABOUT

Ceramic subway tile

It's been a staple of kitchen and bath designs for decades. Peruse the (huge!) range of available styles, and learn which colors and patterns suit your taste. *By Laura Fisher Kubler*

It might just be the harden-working wall covering in America. From the moment that ceramic subway tiles made their debut in New York City's subterranean train stations in the early 1900s, they captured the public's imagination and quickly moved into the bedrooms and kitchens of private houses for both practical and aesthetic reasons. Easy to clean, stain-resistant, and light reflective, the 3-by-6-inch glazed white rectangles epitomized what these rooms could and should be: sanitary.

More than a century later, ceramic subway tile has endured as a perennial favorite for generations of homeowners. Purists seeking an authentic, original look might insist on using a traditional line of white beige with a finish that's glossy and cracked (or "crazed," as it's sometimes called), but if that's not your cup of tea, never fear. Today's tiles come in a mind-boggling array of colors and finishes that partner well with just about any style of decor. And they've made the leap from kitchens and baths to other hard-working spaces that benefit from easy-care surfaces, such as laundry rooms and mudrooms, as well as upon the fireplace mantels, where glazed tiles offer a colorful, decorative alternative to brick or stone, as well as excellent heat resistance.

Inevitably, the popularity of subway tile has expanded as working definitions. Manufacturers often use the term now to describe any rectangular tile with a length twice its height, from 4-by-6-inch planks to 1-by-2 mosaics, and even some tiles (such as contemporary 2-by-6 strips) that don't share the original's proportions at all. Here, we'll stick with the old-school 3-by-6 format as we explore this timeless theme and versatility.

A little slice of history

Opened in 1904 but no longer "hot" today, San's default eat-in at the former City Hall subway station in New York City (M17) featured ceramic subway tiles. Painted as durable and easy to maintain, the tiles and vaulted ceilings were covered with hand-glazed decorative work.



With a long history, the subway tile is a classic choice for kitchen backsplash and wall. It's also a popular choice for bathroom walls and floors. The tiles are made of ceramic and are glazed with a variety of colors and patterns. They are easy to clean and maintain, and they add a touch of style to any room.

VITALS

What do they cost?

Prices start around \$2 per square foot for budget field tile and rise to \$10 (or more) per square foot for handcrafted artisan tile.



DIY or hire a pro?

Many factory-made tiles have integral lip spacers that help grout keep grout lines consistent. Still, tiling is a messy job that takes practice and patience. Novices should start with a small area, such as a single backsplash. Projects involving tricky angles, complex cuts, or grout colors that require removal of spacers are usually better left to a vet.

How long do they last?

Ceramic tiles are tough enough to take a beating, for decades. The adhesives, grout, and caulk used to install them will likely need replacing long before the tiles do. Colors won't fade when exposed to light, but dark glazes are softer than light ones, so they might show scratches.

Colors and finishes

You'll find every hue under the sun, more shades of white than you can count, and glazes that give each tile distinction

1> Hand-applied glass offers subtle tonal variation that adds interest to a wall. Artisan tile in Soda Glass, from \$53.50 per square foot. sokomeltilmakers.com

2> The pumpkin color adds a pop to any space. Hand-Painted tile in Tangerine Glass, \$14.40 per square foot. selbstone.com

3> This marine-blue look would make a lively shower surround. Subway-Ceramics tile in Lagoon Blue-Crackle Glass, \$19.30 per square foot. hertaprice.com

4> A speckled finish results from the firing process. Subway tile in Marbled Red Glass, \$45 per square foot. mercantymosaic.com

5> For a neutral space, gray is a fresh alternative to white. Northwood tile in Yukon Silver-Gray Matte, \$2.62 per square foot. baytile.com

6> The glazing is applied to highlight the handsome beveled edges. VITA-More beveled Rect tile in Taupe Crackle, \$19.57 per square foot. urbaninteriorology.com

7> Varying the kiln's temperature creates this stone-like finish. Stoneware Elements tile in Blue Mist Matte, \$29.90 per square foot. amercoside.com

8> A green and bronze finish feels both organic and elegant. Glass tile in Emerald Green, \$38.50 per square foot. trinkets.com

9> Ice blue tile can give a master bath its soothing spa-like vibe. Capri tile in Sky Blue Glass, \$12 per square foot. amercoside.com

10> An unexpected, kaler-free glass makes black tile feel up-to-date. Proflex tile in Black Matte, \$4.19 per square foot. amercoside.com

11> Ceramic yellow tile can perk up a powder room. Hand-Painted tile in Bell Glass, \$14.40 per square foot. selbstone.com

12> The glass is mixed from recycled factory leftovers. Recycled Artisan tile in Polka Dot, \$12 per square foot. trinkets.com

13> This tile is made with a single firing, giving it a subtle, organic look. Subway tile in Antique Pewter Glass, \$6.66 per square foot. mercantymosaic.com

14> The glass is mixed from recycled factory leftovers. Recycled Artisan tile in Polka Dot, \$12 per square foot. trinkets.com

15> This tile is made with a single firing, giving it a subtle, organic look. Subway tile in Antique Pewter Glass, \$6.66 per square foot. mercantymosaic.com

16> A distressed finish that mimics metal looks at home in a rustic space. Subway tile in Antique Pewter Glass, \$6.66 per square foot. mercantymosaic.com

17> Inspired by Art Deco tiles, this is a modern twist on a classic. Subway tile in Mercury Glass, \$18.50 per square foot. masonswest.com

18> Beveled edges and a matte finish add dimension to the neutral color. Ceramic tile in Antique Pewter Glass, \$6.66 per square foot. mercantymosaic.com

19> This rich, deep red with glass and other dark finishes. Subway tile in Dark Red-Crackle Glass, \$18.30 per square foot. hertaprice.com

20> White tile remains a classic favorite. Subway tile in White Glass, \$10.50 per square foot. selbstone.com

EDGE TREATMENTS

Formed by either molding or cutting, a tile's edges have a subtle yet significant visual impact



RECTIFIED OR SQUARE

Tiles with additional edges can be butted together tightly with the perfect flat joints that were typical of original installations. Bright White Glass tile, \$24 per square foot. selbstone.com



ROUNDED SHOULDERS

Also called eased edges, a slight radius softens and updates the look of these tiles. Modular tile in Lily White-Subtle-Crackle, \$18.50 per square foot. trinkets.com



BEVELED

The edges slope away from the face, giving a subtle sculptural quality. Elements beveled tile in Bright White-Glass, \$14.90 per square foot. amercoside.com

Pick your pattern

These are bell-shaped and, with joints that lend to the middle of the tiles, in-slip-joint tiles. This popular pattern can feel either too formal or contemporary depending on the surroundings. Added bonus: staggered joints are forgiving of slightly out-of-square walls. Granite tile is Menlo Hall Glass, \$22.50 per square foot; www.menlohall.com.



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free online packages of select
Erasmian collections worth \$2,000
each. In detail, see page 13. Or go to
www.digitallibrary.org



Listing up Bies has a decidedly in
pastoral columns creates a polished
contemporary look. Similar to show
Billerhouse Square, the in North
\$1.70 per square foot, built in 2000.



Tripple Glass and Ice Cubes \$24.95
our sources/look us up now

Digging angles revolutionize the material handling a single white film backplash into a luminous focal point. U.S. Corrugated White Bright Snow White. \$1.75 per square foot. interplast.com



Light blue gray matches the wall color for a monochromatic look. Similar to shown Festival in Aquarius. \$234 per square foot, available now.

A popular alternative to concrete, it's a cinch to clean and comes in an ever-widening array of colors, from soft greys and blues to neon brights. Lucian glass tile in Rain, \$13.98 per square foot, www.slick.com.

It needs regular soaking to stay stain-free, but not and show tile looks one-of-a-kind beauty and can be surprisingly competitive with mid-priced ceramics. While Carrara marble tile, \$6 per square foot, shows a heavy veining

This wood-look-able could make a lovely walnut in, say, a dining room. It's rated for dry areas only, so keep it away from sinks and showers. Bamboo subway tile in Chestnut, \$23 per square foot; sustainabletile.com

The glazing finish would add polish to a backplash. Wipe it down often to keep water and grease splatters from spoiling it. Metal-over-porcelain tile in Alloy Copper, \$31.95 per square foot; home depot.com

Hallmarks of a long-lasting tile job

The backing is stable, rigid, and clean.

The backing, or substrate, might be concrete, plywood, drywall, or cementitious backer board. No matter the material, it must be flat and solid, with no rips, bumps, or springiness. Concave tiles to crack. The surface must be free of oil, grease, dirt, paint, and old grout or adhesives.

The pattern avoids awkward cuts.

Measure the number of tiles needed, horizontally and vertically, to reach the ends of the walls, keeping joints uniform. Shift the pattern left, right, up, or down so that there are no thin slivers or small pieces of tiles in highly visible areas. Use corner trimmer tile with bullnose edges to avoid exposed edges at the ends of runs. Visit houseware.com/aug2012 for more information on laying out tile.

The tiles sit straight and flat.

Lay tiles using a horizontal level line and a vertical plumb line as guides. No individual tiles or corners should protrude from the surface. The field should be finished with inside-embedding comb or waterline meets adjacent surfaces, such as walls, tubs, counters, or cabinets.

The finished walls get regular upkeep. Most glazed ceramic tile need little more than cleaning with a mild, nonabrasive soap. But some crackle finishes and most unglazed ceramic tile, such as terra-cotta, need sealing to keep out water and dirt, as do cement-based grouts. Follow the manufacturer's directions for recommended sealers and frequency of application. Replace caulk when it starts looking moldy or grubby.

How much to buy

One square foot comprises eight 3-by-6-inch subway tiles. Measure your project space, round that number to the next highest square foot, then add 10 to 15 percent to cover waste, cuts, and breakage.

$$\left(\begin{array}{c} \text{TOTAL SQUARE} \\ \text{FOOTAGE OF} \\ \text{PROJECT} \\ \text{including} \\ \text{waste} \end{array} \right) \times \left(\begin{array}{c} 15\% \\ \text{Grout and} \\ \text{Sealer} \end{array} \right) = \left(\begin{array}{c} \text{NUMBER OF SQUARE} \\ \text{FEET OF TILE} \\ \text{TO ORDER} \end{array} \right)$$



Similar to shown: Classic field tile in Opal/Glaze, \$26.75 per square foot, herbertceramics.com



SHOPPING TIPS

Visit manufacturer websites to search for the tile you like, but always order samples before buying, so colors and finishes look different in person. Some stores

let you borrow samples overnight for free, or you can buy them online for a nominal fee. Prep samples against the wall you plan to cover to see how the tile looks with your decor and lighting.

Some tile makers sell directly to consumers on their websites or dedicated showrooms. Others will refer you to local and best showrooms or independent online sites, such as southcypress.com. Home centers will show tile at stores but put away most of their offerings online.

Made-to-order tile, especially penny tiles, can take weeks to arrive, so make your selections well in advance if the tile's installation is time-sensitive.

Finishing touches

Boost the simple charm of subway tile by adding trims, borders, and accents.

1> framed focal point

About a sink or countertop, set border pieces to set off a smaller field of different tile. For tiles of white subway tile, back splash a floral border surrounds square tile laid in a diamond pattern, helping draw the eye to the sink's period-style fixtures.

2> contrasting base and cap

In bathrooms, a field of brightly colored or glossy white subway tile, finished with a black base and a chair rail or bullnose cap, was a popular prewar wall finish—and one that a still widely replicated today. Give base tile provides a easy-to-clean transition between a tiled wall and floor.

3> scattered accents

Choose tiles that can be penny, and with so many styles to choose from, who can pick just one? Place a few favorites within a mix of neutral backgrounds to give it texture and color without breaking the look.

4> mixed borders and cap

Add multiple accent strips to make an intricate border. There's a line—this border piece traditionally used with subway—into lines within the sink top to continue this mosaic/mosaic pattern around the room. Also, it's a subtle hint of 1 by 1 inch mosaic, which the field is a service to smaller-scale, and white cap molding finishes it off.

5> built-up base

Instead of showing a single type of base tile, use a few thin, rows of subway in shades that blend with the main field. The waterproof installation has the hub for the rest of the bath and catches the floor tile.

6> wall panels

Half-round trim gives a finished look to the wall frames for a subtle decorative effect. The within the frames are laid in slightly different pattern in L-shaped tiles, a small wall, using color and tile and the frame would have a subtle impact.

Browse tile catalogs and websites for money more from wall border options. ■



READ THIS BEFORE YOU PUT IN AN OUTDOOR KITCHEN

Whether you want a grill with simple preparation or a complete kitchen with fridge and bar seating, don't hit the home center before reading TIME's expert guide to creating a first-rate backyard cook spot. BY AMANDA LECKY ILLUSTRATIONS BY ERIC LARSEN



CHECKLIST: WHAT TO DO, WHEN

1. Hire a contractor (if needed)
2. Get permits
3. Gather materials
4. Run utility lines
5. Install landscaping
6. Buy appliances
7. Add built-ins
8. Hook up lighting



ZERO IN ON THE TYPE THAT'S RIGHT

Movable. A smart choice for small spaces that need a cook-out central on day and a garden hub the next. Start with a portable charcoal or gas grill fitted with heavy cart-ties or stainless steel legs and an on-top-to-clip-on-prep-top for storage and counter space. Add a rolling cart with shelves. To avoid serving bumps and tears, buy a clip-on grill light. Cost: \$100 to \$1,000.

Prefab. An all-in-one option for folks with more square footage and cash to spend. The basic setup (shown below) typically includes a stone-tiled 5-foot island with the counter drop-in gas grill and access doors for a prep sink. Extras, including granite counters, a refrigerator and LED lighting, are ordered à la carte. Offers can get cooking with a prefab island on delivery day. Cost: \$2,800 to \$20,000.

Custom. A built-to-place kitchen, whether crafted by a pro or a handy homeowner, offers integrated appliances, storage, and counter space as well as the cook. Flexibility in terms of matching the kitchen's custom style and style to its surroundings. A larger layout, separate lighting, in-ground utilities, and a pro-grade style and build materials can also raise the price. Cost: \$1,000 to \$20,000 and up.

DESIGNER'S CHEAT SHEET

LANDING AREA

Minifridge: At least 12 inches on one side (24 inches other)

Minigrid: At least 12 inches on one side (24 inches other)

Minigrid: At least 12 inches on one side (24 inches other)



HOW TO AVOID PULLING A PERMIT: Some towns don't require one for prefab grill islands. But to eliminate any guesswork—and ensure that your project won't trigger a tax hike—opt for a movable kitchen with a rolling grill, a cart, and an outdoor extension cord for electricity.

PICK YOUR STYLE



TRADITIONAL. A masonry base in the form of a brick island and stone is classic. To tie into the house, choose material and design such as this warming band built on fire. But address your foundation with a chimney.



CONTEMPORARY. The style is characterized by clean lines and polished finishes, such as granite and stainless steel. Here, the island's moving in harmoniously, giving dimension to the kitchen while also blending it with the wooden backdrop.



RUSTIC. Texture and warmth. To show impact, don't be too loud. Here, stone on the built-in base is used to mimic the earth and is in harmony with the stone of a rough stone counter. Earthy colors blend with the surrounding plants.

3 REASONS TO STAY CLOSE TO THE HOUSE

- Convenience.** You won't have to haul food and supplies across the lawn. An ideal location is 15 to 20 feet from your indoor kitchen. Stay cool by placing seating where you won't be facing the intense rays of the setting sun.
- Budget.** It's less expensive to run utilities a short distance from the house. You can also save on paving by building on an existing patio or deck by the back door.
- Shelter.** The walls of the house can provide structure and protection—when it rains. If under an overhang, avoid the water-hose effect by placing the grill into the roof's perimeter.





GRILL TYPES AND PRICES

They're not necessities, but they make cookouts more enjoyable.

SINK. The less redundancy in hot metal cooking vessels, the better. A sink is the most common and useful for plumbing and waste lines. About \$1,800 total.

DEDICATED SINK LINE. If you have natural gas, put a line through the house to avoid the struggle with a propane tank or run water but don't go. \$800, \$300 to \$900, depending on the distance to the grill.

REFRIGERATOR. A stainless steel under-counter and bench seat combo and a separate side burner are the most common. \$1,500 to \$2,000 for a built-in refrigerator.

EXTRA BURNER. Specialty side burners. Some grills come with one, but for sure there's enough space to fit a gas grill. A separate burner is about \$100 plus the labor. Propane combustion ones that slow everywhere are just as good as \$200.

COMMON CONVENTIONS

The size of your space and budget, as well as your entertaining style, will determine the ideal layout for you.

BUCCARDI'S HILL. Good for smaller space, budget-friendly space, outdoor kitchen for one cook, with a separate dining or seating area.



L-SHAPE. Good for two or more cooks, incorporating extra seating, a sink or refrigerator, providing a buffet, bar or seating area for entertaining.



U-SHAPE. Good for freestanding kitchen with multiple appliances including a grill, refrigerator, and a sink, with a dining or seating area.

G-SHAPE. Good for freestanding kitchen with multiple appliances including a grill, refrigerator, and a sink, with a dining or seating area.



PREVENTIVES

Preventive measures to avoid common grill problems.

Grill. Preventive measures to avoid common grill problems.

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NO FUSS MATERIALS

The experts' top choices for each.

BUILT-IN GRILL

Cultured stone winner. Why: Most built-in grills are made of cultured stone or precast concrete blocks. It looks like natural stone, is long-lasting, and it's a lightweight material to install. Price: \$100 to \$200 per square foot installed.

Brick. Why: Affordable and a classic material. Requires no mortar, and you may have local bricks for free. But if you get bricks, make sure you get the right ones. Price: \$10 to \$15 per square foot installed.

Stone. Why: Tumbled natural stone, concrete block, or precast concrete block. It's a good-looking material that's easy to install. Price: \$10 to \$15 per square foot installed.

CABINETS

Stainless steel.

Why: It's durable and weatherproof and matches the grill. Price: About \$100 for doors larger than 12 inches. Price: \$100 to \$150 for a full 18-inch cabinet and with a door.

White-painted wood. Why: Has the charm of painted wood, but won't rot and is maintenance-free. —just hose it down to clean it. Price: Starts at \$100 for a cabinet with a door and with a door.

Teak. Why: Offers a warm, classic look that's finished naturally with a clear oil. Price: About \$15 per door and with a door. Price: About \$150 for a cabinet with a door and with a door.



PROTECT YOUR GRILL

Three ways to protect from sun and sudden showers, with all the pros and cons of each.

PAINT. A good-quality, weather-resistant paint. Price: About \$10 to \$15 per gallon. Price: About \$10 to \$15 per gallon.

PAINT. A good-quality, weather-resistant paint. Price: About \$10 to \$15 per gallon. Price: About \$10 to \$15 per gallon.

PAINT. A good-quality, weather-resistant paint. Price: About \$10 to \$15 per gallon. Price: About \$10 to \$15 per gallon.

MAKE A THREE-PRONG LIGHTING PLAN

Three ways to protect from sun and sudden showers, with all the pros and cons of each.



COUNTERTOP

Granite. Why: Stands up to the elements, won't stain as easily as marble, soapstone, or stone. Price: About \$100 to \$150 per square foot for a countertop.

Concrete. Why: Looks like a clean, modern look, but can be prone to cracking. It's not properly finished. Price: About \$100 to \$150 per square foot for a countertop.

Outdoor-rated ceramic tile. Why: Tightly grouted tiles are another option. Price: About \$100 to \$150 per square foot for a countertop.

PARTY READY APPLIANCES

IF YOU LIKE

DEEP FRYER.



Large capacity handles finger foods and the Thanksgiving bird. Price: \$100 to \$150.

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Keeps drinks cold and ready to go. Price: \$100 to \$150.

MARINAD GRILL.



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PIZZA OVEN.



Keeps pizzas hot and ready to go. Price: \$100 to \$150.

SLOW-COOKED BEEF.



Prepares tender beef and slow-cooked beef. Price: \$100 to \$150.

FROZEN MARGARITAS.



Keeps margaritas cold and ready to go. Price: \$100 to \$150.

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WARMER.



Keeps food hot and ready to go. Price: \$100 to \$150.

WARMER.



Keeps food hot and ready to go. Price: \$100 to \$150.

WARMER.



Keeps food hot and ready to go. Price: \$100 to \$150.

WARMER.



Keeps food hot and ready to go. Price: \$100 to \$150.



COMFORT-BOOSTING ADD-ONS

Consider these versatile and adjustable accessories for both built-in and movable outdoor kitchens. All are a snap to store between seasons and during the off season.

—MELISSA HAZEN

PORTABLE HEATER

Stay warm and add extra heat to your outdoor kitchen with this 40,000-Btu propane unit. No electricity required. Models make it easy to move. About \$225. Special order at lowe.com



FOLD-UP BENCH
Store up chairs, a lattice back for hanging utensils, and ample counter space make this versatile for putting lunch on hold for an evening of socializing. \$127. wayfair.com

ROLLING COOLER
Supplements a fridge or keeps ice on hand with this portable cooler. 15-gallon cooler that wheels up to the grill. Free delivery. \$229.

NO-PLUMB-SINK
This self-mount water hook-up to a faucet creates a cold-water-washing station. Invert wastewater to garden beds with a second hose. \$130.



WINTERIZING 1-2-3

When temperatures get nippy, you may need to close up shop for the winter. Here's how:
1. Clean and cover the grill.
2. Turn off and cap off all other appliances, such as a fridge.
3. Shut off the water supply, and flush any remaining water from the pipes. (This is what if your plumber installs a gravity-based water-tailor system; otherwise, you'll have to pump the water out.)

See more outdoor kitchens

Get the full story on the latest in outdoor cooking, including up-to-date product info and more. Visit kitchenandbath.com

OVER \$40,000 IN PRIZES!

Enter for more outdoor living upgrades.



PIZZA OVEN
Switching to pizza for a change to win one of these fun prizes. A pizza oven with a built-in pizza stone. \$1,199. For details, see page 2. Or go to franklinstove.com



FRANKLIN STOVE
Switching to outdoor living for a change to win one of these fun prizes. A Franklin Stove pizza oven with a built-in pizza stone. \$1,199. For details, see page 2. Or go to franklinstove.com



COMBO SPA/LAP POOL
Switching to outdoor living for a change to win one of these fun prizes. A combo spa/lap pool with a built-in pizza stone. \$1,199. For details, see page 2. Or go to franklinstove.com



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Inside

AC TIPS

SITE A GENERATOR

TAME TALL GRASS

MORE



57

tips, tricks, and
answers to
your home-
improvement
questions

Q My garden spigot has a broken handle and I can't find a replacement. Do I need a whole new valve?

—MELISSA BROWN, CORAL SPRINGS, FLA.

A Probably not. Did you check with a plumbing supply store? There, you should find a wide selection of replacement handles. As you can see from this collection, their handles have very considerable size and shape, so take the broken one with you to ensure a match. Or, and here's the trick for mounting the new handle—that would be hard to replace. —THE EDITORS

PHOTOGRAPH BY
VICTOR SCHRIJVER

PHOTOGRAPH BY VICTOR SCHRIJVER



askthisoldhouse.com

TOM ELVE
General ContractorBOB FARBER
Music ComposerRICHARD TRETHEWEY
Plumbing and Heating ExpertROGER DAVIS
Landscape ContractorKEVIN O'CONNOR
Host

Q My central air conditioner isn't blowing cold air. Is there anything I can do myself before calling in a pro? I'm pretty handy.

—SERGIO LOERA, SAN ANTONIO



Be sure the fan on an AC system's condenser has enough air flow. A fan that's dirty, blocked, or inefficient, usually as a result of old leaves and twigs, can't cool the coils properly.

Richard Trethewey replies: The first thing I'd check is the condenser, the unit that sits outside the house. It could be that the vents on the housing are so clogged with leaves, twigs, or grass clippings that the fan can't properly circulate enough air. Or perhaps shrubs are crowding the condenser, starving it of air. Either way, a unit without good airflow can't do its job of transferring heat to the outdoors. A severe blockage can even cause the fan motor or the condenser to overheat and fail.

Be sure to trim shrubs at least 18 inches from the housing, and pull off any grass/clippings growing on it. Then turn off power to the unit and carefully brush and vacuum all the leaves on the housing. If that doesn't do the trick, have a pro check the system's refrigerant level.

SEE OUR FULL STORY PAGE 20

Q SKYLIGHT VERSUS TRUSS
I'd like to install a skylight in my roof, which is framed with 2x4 trusses. Is it okay to cut in from so that I can put the skylight where I want it?

—BROOKSHAW PROFFER, CALIF.

Tom Elve replies: It is sometimes possible to cut a truss, but you should never do it without written approval from an engineer. That's

because the components of a truss work together as a unit; if you alter one part, the whole thing could fail. Even cutting a hole in the sheathing can reduce the roof's strength.

I'd think about choosing a smaller skylight or a location that doesn't require modifying the trusses. But if that's not an option, make sure to get a drawing of the change with an engineer's stamp. You'll need that document if anyone ever questions whether the installation is up to snuff. It's the kind of thing that a good home inspector would flag if you sell your house.

Q WATER-HEATER CARE

We're planning to leave on long vacation. Do we need to take any precautions with our tank-type water heater while we're away?

—MARTINE, MOBILE, AL

Richard Trethewey replies: Whether it's gas or electric, I'd turn off the water supply at the very least, to eliminate the risk of catastrophic flooding if the tank sprays a leak while you're gone. To be completely safe, you can also drain the tank.

If your house were in a cold climate, draining the tank would be a must because a full tank can freeze and crack if there's no heat for an extended period in the winter. But there's another good reason to drain: It prevents flammable hydrogen sulfide gas from building up inside the tank. This gas with the rotten-egg smell comes from a chemical reaction between the sulfates in water and the magnesium anode rod in the tank. Normally, it isn't a concern, because the gas dissipates with regular hot-water use. According to some manufacturers, however, a enough gas can accumulate to put two weeks to two months at risk of an explosion or a fire.

Draining the tank isn't necessary,

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When someone sculpts a shingle in a way you don't appreciate, you can pop up the shingling parts or dig it up and offer it intact to someone who does.

in my view, if you're gone for a few weeks. But when you return, don't start the dishwasher or washing machine until you run the hot water for a few minutes and flush out the gas.

Before you drain a tank, always shut off the breaker or the gas supply, depending on your fuel source, and be sure to follow the specific instructions in the owner's manual.

SEE OUR FULL STORY PAGE 20

Q POODLE RUSHES

The previous homeowners did a terrible job pruning the bushes—they look like mangy poodles! We had hoped the plants would fill in, but they don't seem to be happening. What can we do?

—JOHN SCHILLER, SCHLIMM, ILL.

Roger Cook replies: Looks like a great deal of time was spent pruning that bush (above). And it will take a while to grow out.

One quick way to alter them would be to lop off the tops of the

shrubs at the connection between the bottom and middle level. Make the cut down under the bottom level to make it as much as possible. Then use hand pruners to shape the shrub to your taste.

A second option would be to dig up the shrubs, wrap the root balls in burlap, and give them away or sell them (there's lots of plant tral (ie on Craigslist). You might not like poodles at your doorstep, but somebody else might jump at the chance to have pruned shrubs. Then you can replace them with new plants of your choice.

Q STANDBY GENERATOR

I'm thinking about buying a standby generator, but I don't know where to put it. Should it be a certain distance from the house? And does it need a special foundation?

—BARBARA HISS PINEHILL, NY

Kevin O'Connor replies: You're not alone, Barbara. With all the

damaging storms and brutal heat waves we've had in recent years, a lot of people want to guard against power outages with a standby generator. Unlike a portable generator, a standby unit is permanently connected to the home's electrical system and will kick in automatically in the event of a power failure, even if you're not home.

Scott Canon, a licensed master electrician in Massachusetts who installs about 50 standby generators a year, says, "Have a dealer come out to do a site review." Dealers know local codes and permit requirements as well as the generator's needs. Typically, a unit should be installed at least 5 feet from combustible materials, such as wood siding, and at least 3 feet from noncombustibles, like brick. That eliminates a potential fire hazard and ensures that the generator and exhaust pipe aren't obstructed. Some standby generators, however, can be as close as 18 inches to combustibles, just be sure to leave 3 feet on one side for servicing.

"You also have to keep the generator away from anything that has air intake the house," says Canon, so that the exhaust doesn't end up inside. That means 5 feet from windows and doors and 10 feet from intake vents for high-efficiency water heaters, furnaces, and the like.

Aside from code restrictions, some practical issues must be addressed. How easy is it to route the natural-gas or propane lines that fuel the generator, or to move it to the desired location? "Generators weigh as much as 500 pounds, so just getting one to the site can be a challenge," says Canon. More of a challenge can be concrete, but that pushes up the installation cost.

Once you settle on the right spot, Canon says the best place to park a generator is on a double, poured-or cast-concrete pad.

www.enr.com/resources/directories

QUESTION OF THE MONTH



A freestanding, mortared fieldstone wall blends strength with the natural look of a log cabin.

I'd like to build a fieldstone wall. What's the best way to do it?

—MICHAEL JAMES BLACKSTONE, MI

Roger Cook replies: Stone walls are a handsome way to define and improve your property. Building them is backbreaking work, but if done correctly, the wall will last a lifetime, if not a lot longer.

Cost: To build a wall 10 feet long, 3 feet high and 24 inches deep, \$600 for 3 tons of stone, \$36 for half cubic yard crushed stone, \$30 for twenty-four 80-pound bags of mortar and \$15 for nine bags of concrete.

Time: Seven days provide with two people.

Difficulty: Extremely hard. Stone is heavy and backbreaking work is often tiring.

I like to see stones in mortar because you can't beat a mortared wall for strength, which is important if a wall serves as seating or holds back earth. To preserve a dry-laid look, I see the stones in a mortar that's pigmented a dark gray and then color the joints later.

Freestanding mortared walls, like the fieldstone one I'm building here, need a stable, frost-proof footing to prevent shifting, and that requires a lot of digging in cold climates.

Ask a mason yard to help determine how much material you'll need, and have it delivered as close to the site as possible. Once built, you'll have a rock-solid wall without all the heavy mortar lines

STEP-BY-STEP Build a fieldstone wall

1. Prepare the footing

Dig a trench that is below the frost line and 3 feet wider than the wall. Line it with landscape fabric overlapped 12 inches at the seams. Add a 4-inch layer of ¾-inch stone and tamp it with a plate compactor. Add and tamp more layers until the footing is about 8 inches below grade. About a foot beyond each end of a straight wall section, drive two stakes separated by a distance equal to the width of the wall.

2. Lay the base course

Align the stakes with a mason's line set just above grade. Place the first stone at a corner with its face grazing the line. Position the next stone against the first, face to the line, and so on until the first course is laid. Repeat on the opposite side. Fill between the courses with smaller stones, set flush with the tops of the face stones. Top this course with a bed of mortar.



4. Mark the stones to cut

Eventually you'll have to cut a stone to make it fit. Use a new pencil to mark the uniform of the stone you want to remove. If the wall the goal is to keep the joints tight, mark the 24 inches wide. Toward the top you'll need a 3-inch wide joint. A 3-point head sledge and safety glasses.

5. Cut the stone

Place the marked stone on the ground with the widest side on the ground. Set the stone flat on the new pencil line and strike it slightly downward. Set the line about 4 inches from the top of the stone. Place the stone on the new pencil line and strike it again and repeat until the waste pieces are

6. Tool the joints

Trim the joints between the courses with a brick jointer, making them slightly concave to shed water. On hot dry or windy days, mist the wall with water as you work so that the mortar cures slowly and completely. Finish by applying a weight of concrete along the base course, front and back to keep the wall from shifting. Use a brick trowel to make each wedge 8 inches high and 32 inches wide. Hide them with backfill

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save this old house

A quaint Queen Anne on the Oregon coast!

Price: \$99,900
Location: Tillamook, Ore.
Contact: Kathy Morace
503-642-7515

The history: It was 1893 when Eli Goodquest, his wife, Emmett, and their three children arrived in Oregon after a four-month journey from Iowa by ox-drawn wagon. After farming rented land at the eastern part of the state for a while, Eli took advantage of the Homestead Act and, in 1895, acquired 164 acres of tillable land in the coastal town of Tillamook. In no time, Eli turned that land into a prosperous dairy farm and used his earnings to build this charming Queen Anne, which would remain in his family through the 1930s.

Why save it? It extended his house to be a town showpiece, outfitting it with exquisite hand-carved millwork, including an oak staircase imported from Europe. Interior doors and mantels feature floral motifs that mimic the baldpate birds that once nested in the eaves.

What it needs: The house, which has been occupied since 1890, needs some serious springing up. Plus, wood paneling and dropped ceilings should be removed, and the large kitchen and the bedrooms brought back to Victorian period style. It also requires a new roof and repairs to the wood siding. Located 7 miles west of Port Townsend, Tillamook is a small town known for logging, commercial fishing and dairy farming and is home to the Tillamook Cheese Factory, which draws million tourists annually. It's also a destination for sport fishermen who come for its five salmon-filled rivers. Now is your chance to move here and restore a fading beauty back into the proud farmhouse it was in its day. —*Kathy Morace*



1 The three-bedroom, two-bath house has 1,687 square feet of living space and features a two-level front porch. 2 You'll have to replace the picket fence and the small white picket fence in the 1930s photo. 3 Predating the Panama Canal, this imported oak staircase made the long trip from Europe via Cape Horn. 4 Though covered with layers of paint, the plasters of this mantel have the same floral motifs as the staircase.

Get a house to save? If you're like me, I'm a 9 ft. 6 in. 10 in. 11 ft. 12 ft. 13 ft. 14 ft. 15 ft. 16 ft. 17 ft. 18 ft. 19 ft. 20 ft. 21 ft. 22 ft. 23 ft. 24 ft. 25 ft. 26 ft. 27 ft. 28 ft. 29 ft. 30 ft. 31 ft. 32 ft. 33 ft. 34 ft. 35 ft. 36 ft. 37 ft. 38 ft. 39 ft. 40 ft. 41 ft. 42 ft. 43 ft. 44 ft. 45 ft. 46 ft. 47 ft. 48 ft. 49 ft. 50 ft. 51 ft. 52 ft. 53 ft. 54 ft. 55 ft. 56 ft. 57 ft. 58 ft. 59 ft. 60 ft. 61 ft. 62 ft. 63 ft. 64 ft. 65 ft. 66 ft. 67 ft. 68 ft. 69 ft. 70 ft. 71 ft. 72 ft. 73 ft. 74 ft. 75 ft. 76 ft. 77 ft. 78 ft. 79 ft. 80 ft. 81 ft. 82 ft. 83 ft. 84 ft. 85 ft. 86 ft. 87 ft. 88 ft. 89 ft. 90 ft. 91 ft. 92 ft. 93 ft. 94 ft. 95 ft. 96 ft. 97 ft. 98 ft. 99 ft. 100 ft. 101 ft. 102 ft. 103 ft. 104 ft. 105 ft. 106 ft. 107 ft. 108 ft. 109 ft. 110 ft. 111 ft. 112 ft. 113 ft. 114 ft. 115 ft. 116 ft. 117 ft. 118 ft. 119 ft. 120 ft. 121 ft. 122 ft. 123 ft. 124 ft. 125 ft. 126 ft. 127 ft. 128 ft. 129 ft. 130 ft. 131 ft. 132 ft. 133 ft. 134 ft. 135 ft. 136 ft. 137 ft. 138 ft. 139 ft. 140 ft. 141 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ft. 1348 ft. 1349 ft. 1350 ft. 1351 ft. 1352 ft. 1353 ft. 1354 ft. 1355 ft. 1356 ft. 1357 ft. 1358 ft. 1359 ft. 1360 ft. 1361 ft. 1362 ft. 1363 ft. 1364 ft. 1365 ft. 1366 ft. 1367 ft. 1368 ft. 1369 ft. 1370 ft. 1371 ft. 1372 ft. 1373 ft. 1374 ft. 1375 ft. 1376 ft. 1377 ft. 1378 ft. 1379 ft. 1380 ft. 1381 ft. 1382 ft. 1383 ft. 1384 ft. 1385 ft. 1386 ft. 1387 ft. 1388 ft. 1389 ft. 1390 ft. 1391 ft. 1392 ft. 1393 ft. 1394 ft. 1395 ft. 1396 ft. 1397 ft. 1398 ft. 1399 ft. 1400 ft. 1401 ft. 1402 ft. 1403 ft. 1404 ft. 1405 ft. 1406 ft. 1407 ft. 1408 ft. 1409 ft. 1410 ft. 1411 ft. 1412 ft. 1413 ft. 1414 ft. 1415 ft. 1416 ft. 1417 ft. 1418 ft. 1419 ft. 1420 ft. 1421 ft. 1422 ft. 1423 ft. 1424 ft. 1425 ft. 1426 ft. 1427 ft. 1428 ft. 1429 ft. 1430 ft. 1431 ft. 1432 ft. 1433 ft. 1434 ft. 1435 ft. 1436 ft. 1437 ft. 1438 ft. 1439 ft. 1440 ft. 1441 ft. 1442 ft. 1443 ft. 1444 ft. 1445 ft. 1446 ft. 1447 ft. 1448 ft. 1449 ft. 1450 ft. 1451 ft. 1452 ft. 1453 ft. 1454 ft. 1455 ft. 1456 ft. 1457 ft. 1458 ft. 1459 ft. 1460 ft. 1461 ft. 1462 ft. 1463 ft. 1464 ft. 1465 ft. 1466 ft. 1467 ft. 1468 ft. 1469 ft. 1470 ft. 1471 ft. 1472 ft. 1473 ft. 1474 ft. 1475 ft. 1476 ft. 1477 ft. 1478 ft. 1479 ft. 1480 ft. 1481 ft. 1482 ft. 1483 ft. 1484 ft. 1485 ft. 1486 ft. 1487 ft. 1488 ft. 1489 ft. 1490 ft. 1491 ft. 1492 ft. 1493 ft. 1494 ft. 1495 ft. 1496 ft. 1497 ft. 1498 ft. 1499 ft. 1500 ft. 1501 ft. 1502 ft. 1503 ft. 1504 ft. 1505 ft. 1506 ft. 1507 ft. 1508 ft. 1509 ft. 1510 ft. 1511 ft. 1512 ft. 1513 ft. 1514 ft. 1515 ft. 1516 ft. 1517 ft. 1518 ft. 1519 ft. 1520 ft. 1521 ft. 1522 ft. 1523 ft. 1524 ft. 1525 ft. 1526 ft. 1527 ft. 1528 ft. 1529 ft. 1530 ft. 1531 ft. 1532 ft. 1533 ft. 1534 ft. 1535 ft. 1536 ft. 1537 ft. 1538 ft. 1539 ft. 1540 ft. 1541 ft. 1542 ft. 1543 ft. 1544 ft. 1545 ft. 1546 ft. 1547 ft. 1548 ft. 1549 ft. 1550 ft. 1551 ft. 1552 ft. 1553 ft. 1554 ft. 1555 ft. 1556 ft. 1557 ft. 1558 ft. 1559 ft. 1560 ft. 1561 ft. 1562 ft. 1563 ft. 1564 ft. 1565 ft. 1566 ft. 1567 ft. 1568 ft. 1569 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